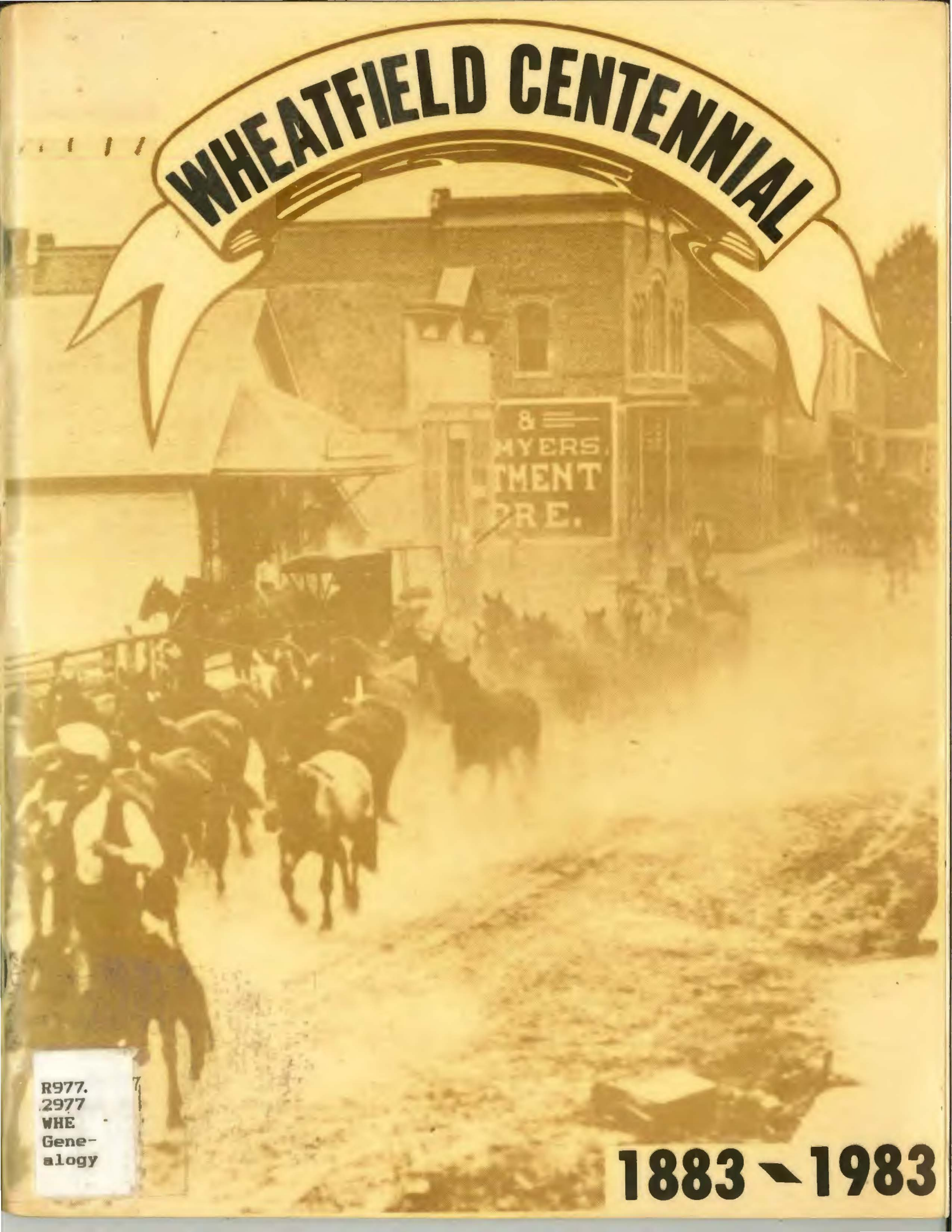
WHEATFIELD CENTENNIAL



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ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The Wheatfield Historical Society has compiled the information in this booklet to help celebrate 100 years of existence from the time of the platting of the Town of Wheatfield. Much time was put in researching and checking old records to assure that any information in this booklet is as accurate as possible.

We wish to thank the many people, both near and far, who contributed pictures and information for our booklet. A special thank you to those who gathered information, conducted interviews, searched out old records, rewrote and edited material and those who did the lay-out and composing work.

This booklet would not have been possible without the support of the many people who placed their advertisements in our booklet. Thank you to all those who advertised and to the persons who sold the ads.

Many hours, days and weeks of time were spent by the persons who helped with our booklet. We hope you enjoy reading the material we have gathered about our town as much as those who worked on this booklet enjoyed learning about the past of Wheatfield.

The Wheatfield Historical Society.

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NOT FOR CIRCULATION

From Swamp Land To Town

Before the arrival of the white man, the land now the town of Wheatfield and the surrounding area was populated by tribes of the Potawatami Nation. A French explorer and fur trader, Robert Cavelier de LaSalle first explored the area in December 1679.

On September 20, 1850, the federally owned swamps located in the State of Indiana were granted to the state by the Congress of Millard Fillmore. The conditions of the grant were that the swamps were to be drained and reclaimed, making the land suitable for farming.

In 1838 Jasper County became an independent county. After revisions in 1840 and 1859, Jasper County was left as it is today. Wheatfield Township was established in June 1856.

After the Swamp Land Act of 1857 the acreage in the swamp land was available for $1.25 per acre. The money was deposited with the County Treasurer and was to be used for draining the area and converting it to productive land.

On August 4, 1858 the State of Indiana deeded to Frederick Van Patten 160 acres, part of which was later to become the beginning of the town of Wheatfield. Simon P. Thompson purchased 80 acres of the land on March 14, 1882. On December 27, 1883, Simon P. Thompson and his wife May F. Thompson platted to the town of Wheatfield the original six blocks. These six blocks were from Railroad Street on the north to South Street on the south, and two blocks wide, from the present Main Street on the west to Grace Street on the east. Prior to this time the village was often referred to as Wheatfield Station, possibly since the Indiana, Illinois and Iowa Railroad was located just north of Railroad Street and a depot was located there.

Forty-four acres east of the original plat of Wheatfield were sold on March 15, 1885 by Thompson and his wife to James B. Graham. On May 16, 1888, James B. Graham and his wife Sarah platted a portion of the land to the town of Wheatfield. Graham's Addition thus became the first addition to the town and formed a large part of the present day east end of Wheatfield.

The second residential addition to the town of Wheatfield was Bentley's Addition, which comprises the majority of the present west end of Wheatfield. On April 22, 1856, 40 acres of "swamp land" was deeded to William P. Ramey from the government. Twenty-four of these 40 acres were eventually deed to Seth J. Bentley on March 22, 1890. On April 19, 1890 Bentley's Addition to the town of Wheatfield was platted.

Through the years, fifteen more additions were added to the town, until it reached its present boundaries in 1965.

How The Town Was Named

Several different stories are told about how the town of Wheatfield was named. The wild rice or swamp grass that grew in the area was said to look like a field of grain from a distance so the area was called Wheatfield. Another story relates that the town is in the area of where the first field of wheat was planted in the county. Whatever the origin of the name, wheat is still one of the crops grown in the area.



Wheatfield Post Office, 1983

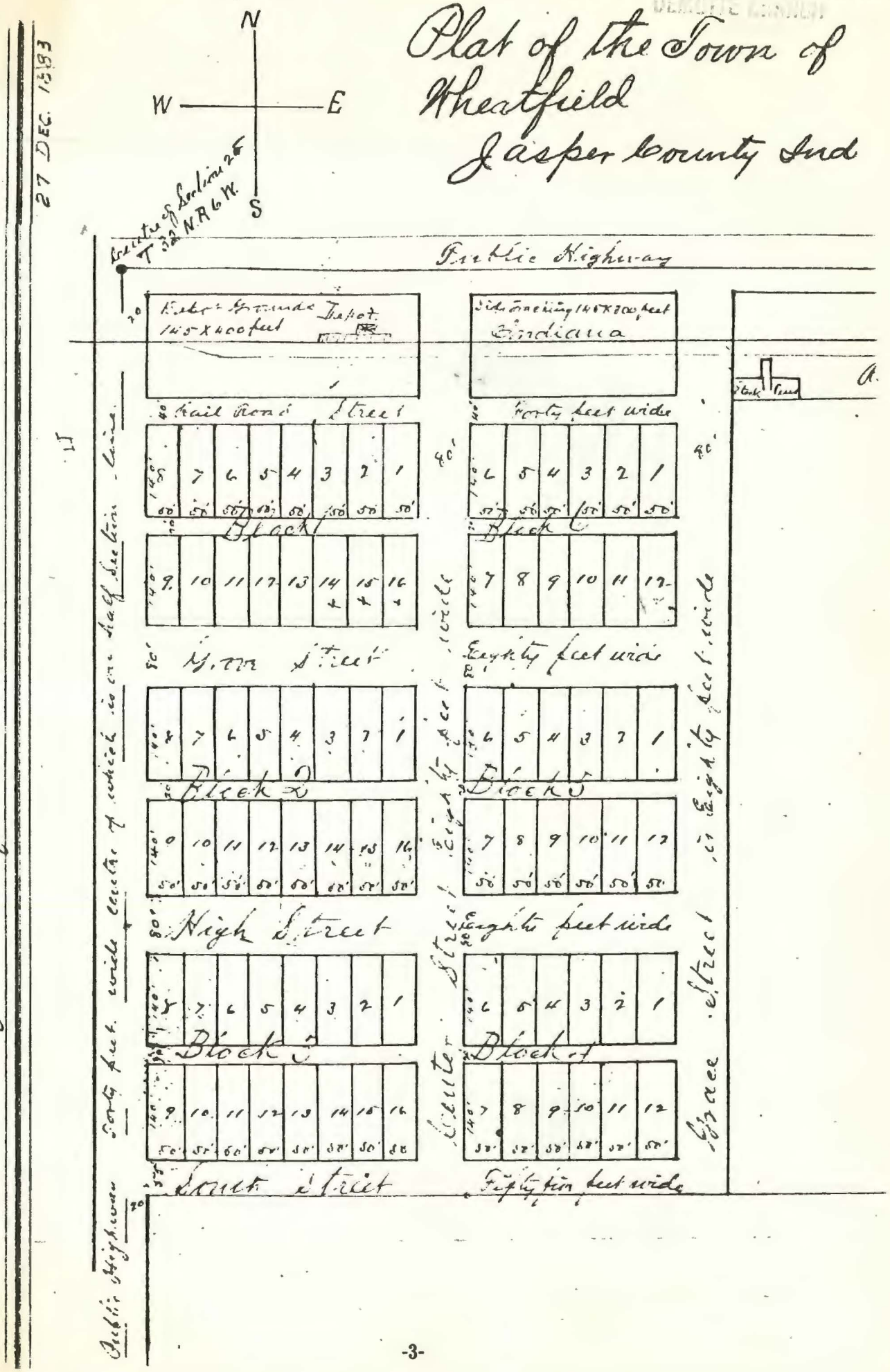
Post Office

The need for a reliable source of communication became evident as more people settled in the area. On August 9, 1882, the first post office was established in Wheatfield. The first postmaster, Nelson D. Ingram, served from August 29, 1882 to October 9, 1883. The second postmaster was John Welsh, serving from October, 9, 1883 to November 23, 1883. Welsh was followed by John D. Welsh from November 23, 1883 to September 1, 1885. Stephen D. Clark held the position of postmaster from September 1, 1885 to May 14, 1889. The last postmaster before the turn of the century was William H. Smiley.

In 1885 the post office was located in John Welsh's general store. Other early post offices were located on Grove Street just west of Main Street. For the past 40 or more years the post office has been located in different buildings on Main Street. The present post office is located on the south east corner of Main and Grove Street. Richard Parker is the present postmaster and has served in this capacity since 1967.

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Plat of the Town of Wheatfield Jasper County Ind

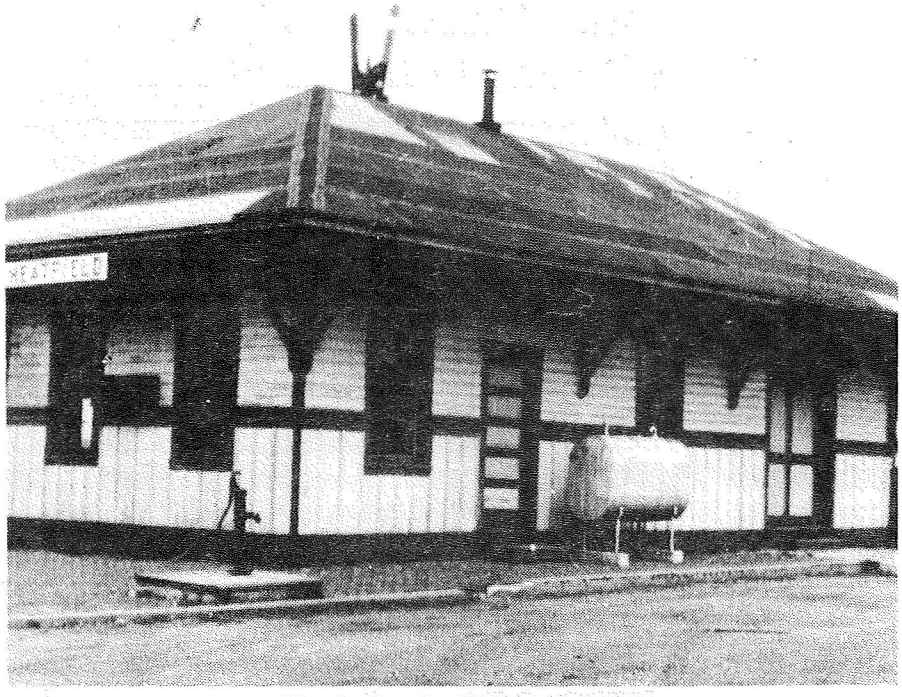


Plat of Wheatfield Jasper County Indiana.

27 DEC. 1893

Railroads

In the early 1880's railroads were growing in the northern section of Indiana. The Plymouth, Kankakee and Pacific Railroad was the first to lay tracks through the present town of Wheatfield. In 1883, when the tracks were being completed in the swamp areas it was called the Indiana, Illinois, and Iowa Railroad Company. The "Three I's Railroad" had stations at Dunnsville, Wheatfield, Stoutsburg and DeMotte. At the time of its building the railroad was looked upon as a great benefit to the area it ran through, but was of little importance to the county in general.



New York Central Depot, 1956.



"Coalie" Coal Shed, 1983, now located on Robert Theis property.

The railroad was used to ship wildlife to market in the Chicago area. The wildlife has been slain by hunters in the local swamp area. In the winter, rabbits were placed in barrels, covered with water, frozen and shipped out on the railroad. During the summer months, the rabbits were skinned and cleaned, placed in barrels, salted down and then shipped to market. Other enterprising settlers cut and baled swamp grass which was then sent by rail to Chicago where it sold for $8 a ton.

In following years the rail road was known as the New York Central System, then the Penn Central and today as the ConRail System. In 1983 the ConRail serves the Cargill Elevator in Wheatfield and the Northern Indiana Public Service Company's Rollin M. Schahfer Generating Station in Kankakee Township. The railroad has discontinued service east of the generating station.

The old "Coalie" was the other railroad that served the Wheatfield community. In 1879-80 this railroad was known as the Chicago and Great Southern or Indiana and Great Southern when it furnished Newton County with its main source of rail transportation. In 1886, the right of way was bought from local land owners in the Wheatfield area and the line continued on to the north east. At this time the railroad operated under the name of the Chicago, Eastern and Illinois. The major purpose of this line was to haul coal, thus the name old "Coalie". Later the railroad was known as the Chicago, Attica, and Southern Railway and went out of business in 1945. The coal shed used by the "Coalie" railroad was moved from the railroad right of way several years ago and now is on the property of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Theis at the corners of High and Concord Streets in Wheatfield.

The railroads provided passenger service and a means of travel for the local people. In 1908 a 12 day excursion to Niagara Falls from Wheatfield cost $7.50 for the round trip train ticket.



The Engelbret Jensen Family - Front, Ita, Caroline, Inga, Engelbret, Charlie and Hulda. Back row, Martin, Laura, Jense, Marie, Lars, Lou, and Tom.

Jensen Family

Engelbret Jensen was born May 21, 1857 in Norway the son of Jens Hansen. He married Caroline Larsen in 1877 and they immigrated to America in 1882. They has eleven children, Jense O., Alexander L., Marie, Thomas, Louis, Laura, Martin, Charles, Hulda, Ita and Enga.

In 1885 the Jensen family relocated in Wheatfield. Mr. Jensen operated a blacksmith shop from 1885 until about 1918. In 1919 he opened the Jensen Theatre, showing silent movies until 1929 when the talking movies became popular. Their daughter Ita (Jensen) Todd played the piano for the silent films. Sons, Louis, Thomas and Alexander operated the movie projector and ran the concession stand for the theatre. The theatre was also used for graduations, basketball games and Saturday night dances. Engelbret Jensen died in August 1932 and was buried in the Wheatfield Cemetery. He was a member of the Church of the Latter Day Saints.

The Jensen's sons were all athletically minded and played baseball on the Wheatfield Regulars, Pretty Boys and other teams which were popular in Wheatfield in the early 1900's

Alexander L. Jensen became a cashier at the Bank of Wheatfield in 1910 and held this position for many years. He also worked at the DeMotte Bank at one time.

Charles Jensen was a pharmacist at a drug store in DeMotte in the 1920's.

Thomas Jensen was born November 12, 1883 in Chicago. He was a clerk in a dry goods store before he opened his own general store in 1912. During the 1920's he was postmaster at the Wheatfield Post Office which was lcoated just west of the original Myers and Myers Department Store. On September 25, 1910, Thomas Jensen married Ella Beatrice Langdon, daughter of Henry LaFayette Langdon. They had one son, Thomas Arden, born July 1, 1914. Mr. Jensen was a member of the Methodist Episcopal Church and of the Wheatfield Masonic Lodge. He died on April 26, 1934.

Louis Jensen was a carpenter and spent his lifetime in the Wheatfield community. Two of the brick homes he built are the present John Gray and the Goldie Grube home. Both of these homes are located on Main Street, south of South Street. He was a member of the Masonic Lodge. Louis Jensen died July 3, 1973, and was buried in Wheatfield Cemetery.

Hulda Jensen was married to Murray Meyers. Martin Jensen drown in the Kankakee River at the age of 18. Enga Jensen died at the age of eight from diptheria. Laura Jensen married Earl Darner who later became a Wheatfield business man. Ita (Jensen) Todd is the only living child of Engelbret and Caroline Jensen and is 1983 is living in Merrillville, Indiana.

Earl Darner

Earl Darner was born March 31, 1889, a son of Henry and Sarah (Brackett) Darner. He was raised by Edward and Maria Biggs on their farm just south of Wheatfield. He married Laura Jensen, a daughter of Engelbret and Caroline Jensen. Mr. and Mrs. Darner had one child, a daughter, Marguerite (Darner) Wood, who now resides in Camden, Tennessee. Darner was a school teacher for a short time at the River School. He operated a hardware store in the Independent Order of Odd Fellows building from about 1918 until 1929. Mr. Darner died in 1973.

Henry LaFayette Langdon

Henry LaFayette Langdon was born January 19, 1855, in Owen County, Indiana. On May 6, 1880, he married Ines Rosetta Huber. They had four children, Albert L., Herman R., Ella B. and Lillie M. In approximately 1890 they settled in Wheatfield. Mr. Langdon ran a livery stable, started a dray line, and operated a flour and feed store. He was a member of the Town Board, the Modern Woodmen and the Knights of Pythias. He died on January 22, 1943, and was buried in Wheatfield Cemetery.

Herman R. Langdon

Herman R. Langdon was born in Missouri on November 27, 1883, a son of Henry L. and Ines Langdon. He came to Wheatfield in 1890 and attended Wheatfield schools. He started his business career working in the Myers and Myers Department Store. Later he became a partner in the store and eventually bought out the business.

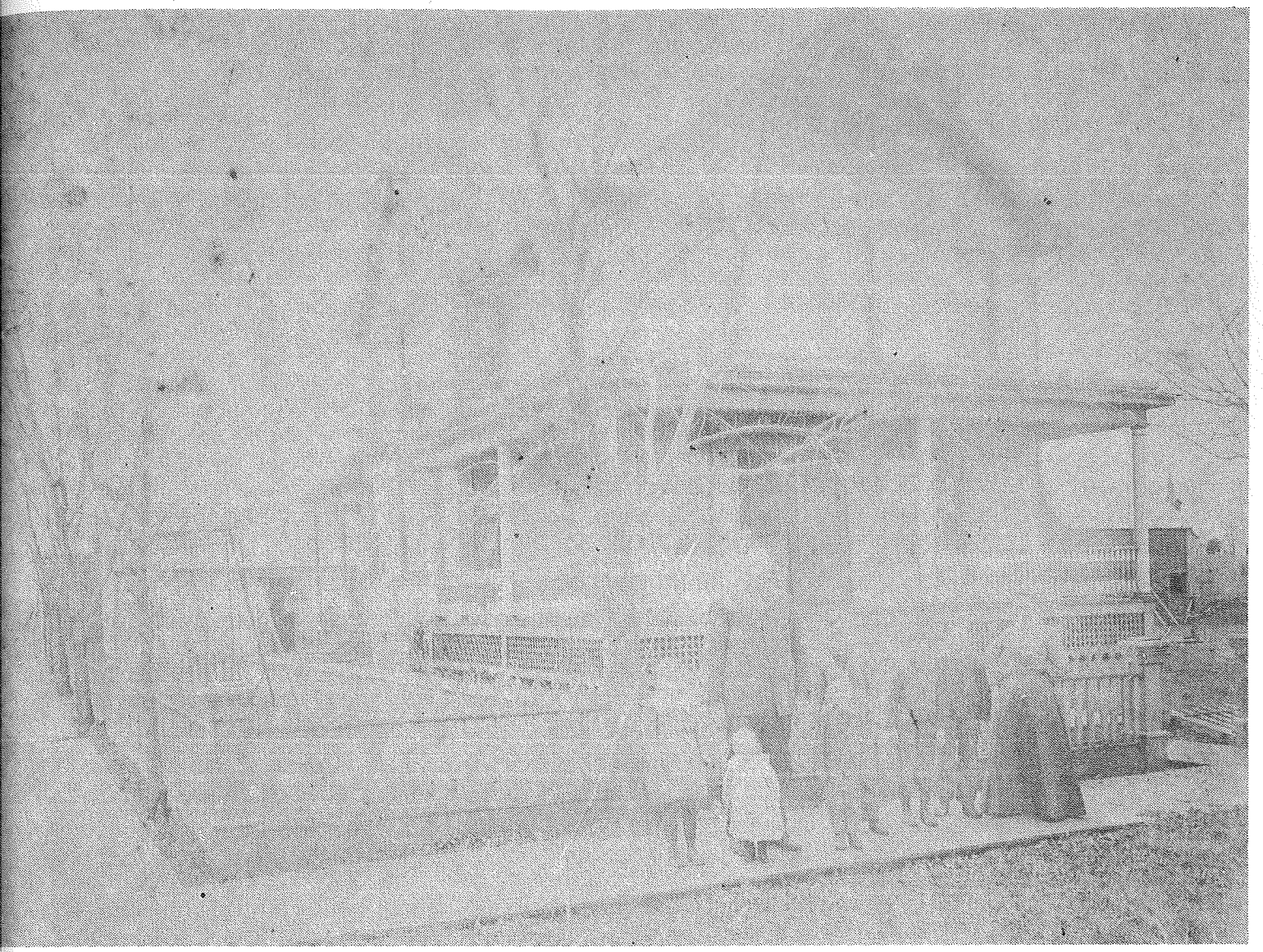
In 1911 he married Ollie White of Tefft. They had two daughter, Wilma and Ruth. Mr. Langdon was a member of the Masons, the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and the Modern Woodmen of America. In 1910 he was elected president of the Wheatfield Town Board, and finished his last term as president of the Town Board in December 1927. He died in 1971.

George Oren Stembel

George Oren Stembel was born October 20, 1854 in Ohio, the son of Joseph and Mary (Zigler) Stembel. He was married to Sarah E. Tilton. They were the parents of seven children; Albert F., Oscar J., Grover C., Mary S., Harry I., Gilbert H., and Clarence O. In 1884 he came to Wheatfield and was the first manager of the W. E. Sweeney lumber and hay business. In October 1903 he formed a partnership with E.T. Biggs in the lumber, hay and farm implement business. In August 1904 he bought out the business. He was a member of the School Board for 18 years. He was also a member of the Masonic Lodge, Knights of Pythias and the Modern Woodmen of America. He died on August 7, 1914. Gilbert H. Stembel is the only living child of George O. Stembel and is now living in Chicago.

Albert F. Stembel

Albert F. Stembel was born in1889, the son of George O. and Sarah (Tilton) Stembel. As a young man Stembel assisted his father in his different businesses. Following his father's death in 1914, he became the active manager in the implement and grain business. On December 30, 1914, Stembel married Luella McCay and they had two sons, William and James. In 1935 he married Ellen Harrington Granger and they had one son, Allen. He was active in town affairs and held the office of town treasurer and was a member of the town board. Stembel served as the town marshal for many years and in 1926 was paid $36.00 a month for the position. In 1934 the monthly pay was reduced to $25.00 due to the poor economical conditions of the Depression. At the time of his death in 1960, Stembel was still managing the implement business of the George O. Stembel Estate. Two of Albert Stembel's sons are still living. James lives in New Jersey and Allen lives in Hebron, Indiana.



George O. Stembel family 1900. Front row-left to right are Gilbert H. and Harry I. Second row- Mary Samantha, George Oren, Albert F., Grover C., Oscar J. and Sarah E.

Nathan T. Keene

Nathan T. Keene was born in 1835 in Ohio and came to Indiana with his parents as a young child. Keene and his wife, Mary Elsea, came to Jasper County in 1865. In 1880 they moved to the Wheatfield area where he worked as a farmer. They had six children; Mary Malinda, Albert Setloff, Sarah Elizabeth, Harriet Ardella, Clara Christiana and James Nathan. He died in 1922.

Albert S. Keene

Albert Setloff Keene was born July 21, 1862 in Tippecanoe County, Indiana. He was the oldest son of Nathan T. and Mary (Elsea) Keene. In 1865 he came to Jasper County and in 1892 moved to Wheatfield. On November 3, 1891, he married Mary Gushwa They had eight children; William A., Lottie, Burl Henry, Dora Irene, Bernard LaRoy, Clarance (Hank), Bernice and Paul.

Keene had been in the well drilling business and helped his father with farming before he moved to Wheatfield. He operated a furniture store, undertaking business and harness shop on Grove Street, just west of Main Street. Keene also had a livery stable on Grove Street, west of Wolf Street. It was at this location that he housed the hearse for his undertaking business. Another of his ventures was planting several hundred fruit trees which his son William tended. William sold the apples and also made cider and sold it. William later operated a small dairy service in Wheatfield. Albert Keene also worked as a contractor and he and his sons worked on State Road 10 when is was being built. Keene served two terms as assessor of Wheatfield Township and was township trustee for several terms. In 1907 Keene served as the town marshal. He was a member of the Masons, Knights of Pythias, Modern Woodmen and Foresters. He died in 1937 and was buried in the Wheatfield Catholic Cemetery. Two of his children are still living, Paul and Lottie (Keene) Williams.

John H. Tilton

John H. Tilton was born on March 18, 1843 and came to Wheatfield in 1885. He married Samantha Swisher and they had eight children; Alfred J., Geroge W., Sarah E., John W., Julia Etta, Coreanne F., Bert W., and Bessie T. Tilton enlisted in the Forty-sixth Indiana Volunteer Infantry during the Civil War. He was also in the Twenty-ninth Indiana Infantry. He operated a general store north of the Myers and Myers Department Store on Main Street for several years. In 1897 Tilton served as the town clerk. Tilton died on February 20, 1911.

Horace Marble

Horace Marble was born in 1840 in Vermont and relocated in 1848 to Lake County Indiana. He enlisted in Company E, Ninth Regiment, Indiana Volunteer Infantry in 1861. In 1866, he married Mary E. Booth and they had two daughters, Kate and Bernice. In 1873 he married his second wife Martha Skinner. They had two children Henry Ward and Ruth.

While living in Lake County he served two terms as sheriff and was also county auditor. During this time, he purchased a large parcel of land north of Wheatfield. This came to be known as Marble Ranch. He became president of the Bank of Wheatfield in 1905 and held this position until his death in 1910. He was a member of the Wheatfield Masonic Lodge No. 642. He died June 15, 1910, and was buried in Wheatfield Cemetery.

Henry Ward Marble

Henry Ward Marble, son of Horace and Martha (Skinner) Marble, was born April 24, 1878, in Hobart, Indiana. He came to Wheatfield in 1896. He became the president of the Bank of Wheatfield after his father's death in 1910. He was active in public and political affairs and in 1914, was elected to the Jasper County Board of Commissioners. He died on Febraury 15, 1933.

Horace Malcolm Clark

Horace Malcolm Clark, son of Guy D. and Bernice (Marble) Clark, was born November 4, 1892 in Crown Point. He came to Wheatfield at the age of nine. He became an assistant cashier at the Bank of Wheatfield at the age of 18 and held this position for a year and a half. He then began managing his grandfather's Marble Ranch.

In 1913 Clark married Elizabeth Virginia Spitler of Rensselaer. A son Horace M. was born in 1916. He was a member of Masons, Knights of Pythias, Modern Woodmen and Phi Delta Theta.

Goldie B. Grube

Goldie Belle Biggs was born on July 2, 1896. She was the only child of Edward T. and Maria (Dunn) Biggs. She was born in Wheatfield in the house across the street from where she now lives on Main and South Streets.

Goldie's family first came to the area in 1879. Her mother, Maria Dunn, came to Wheatfield as the bride of Edward McNeil in about 1879. They settled in a home on the present legion grounds. Mr. McNeil operated a livery stable there and supplied feed and water to cattle buyers who were driving their cattle through the area. They had a son, William, on January 12, 1880. Mr. McNeil died on Spetember 10, 1892.

Following the death of her husband, Maria Dunn McNeil, moved to town with her son, William, who was then 12 years old.

Maria Dunn McNeil was married to Edward T. Biggs on May 27, 1894. Maria met Mr. Biggs a few years earlier when he was driving cattle through this area. Mr. Biggs was a cattle buyer and sold cattle to Notre Dame each year. Mr. Biggs was involved in farming and business ventures before his death on November 18, 1905. Goldie was nine years old at the time of her father's death.

Goldie was twelve years old when Wheatfield flooded. She recalls the young men of the community going spear fishing at the flooded ball park. She also relates attending the Methodist Episcopal Church which was located where the First Baptist Church now stands. The. M.E. Church was struck by lightning and destroyed in the late 1920's or early 1930's.

In 1918 Goldie and her mother, Maria Biggs, helped nurse the sick during the flu epidemic.

Goldie met her first husband, Robert Manz, while he was working at the depot on north Main Street. Goldie Belle Biggs and Robert Manz were married on June 16, 1918. Shortly after their marriage Mr. Manz went to the army. After returning from the service, he completed his schooling at Vanderbilt University, School of Dentistry in May 1920. He practiced one year in Fort Wayne before opening his dental office in Wheatfield. He continued his practice in Wheatfield until his death in 1941.

Goldie married her second husband, Frank Grube, a local farmer, on November 23, 1946. Mr. Grube died on July 16, 1976.

Through the years Goldie has been involved in numerous organizations and community activities. She has been a member of the Wheatfield Homemakers Club, Wheatfield American Legion Auxiliary, Wheatfield Friends of the Library, Wheatfield Historical Society, Women's Society of the First Baptist Church, Wheatfield First Baptist Church, Royal Neighbors and is a former member of the Methodist Episcopal Church. She was a 20 year member of the Jasper County Hospital Board. Goldie has been a Sunday School teacher for more than 20 years at the First Baptist Church of Wheatfield.

Goldie is the oldest person presently living in Wheatfield who was also born in Wheatfield.



Goldie Belle Biggs
February 1910, age 13



Angeline Kerns, unknown, and Mrs. Brooks are wearing the styles of the early 1900's.

Wheatfield Incorporation and Government

On September 30, 1894 the town of Wheatfield was incorporated. The names of the first town officials are not available. It has been established that John H. Tilton served as town clerk in 1897. An election was held in 1898 but names of those elected are not known.

The first records available for an election were from May 6, 1901. W.H. Robertson was elected town clerk for a term of two years. Louis Paulsen was elected town treasurer. William V. Brown was elected town marshal. August Stachel was elected trustee for the first ward and J. H. Tilton was elected trustee for the third ward.

In the town election of 1903. Simon Fendig was elected trustee for the first ward. Henry Langdon was elected trustee for the second ward and Orland J. Miller was elected trustee for the third ward. Geroge W. Swisher was elected town clerk and Louis Paulsen was elected town treasurer. Isaac S. Wilson was elected as town marshal.

William V. Brown served as town marshal from 1897 to 1902. Albert Stembel served the town as marshal from 1922 to 1944. Clifford Kerns was the marshal from 1946 until some time in the early 1960's. Kerns also served as the town maintenance man and fire chief until the fire department was organized.



Clifford "Bubbles" Kerns. Long time Wheatfield Marshal.

Prior to the turn of the century, the jail in Wheatfield was located on North Concord Street on property now owned by Carroll Pinter. When the town hall was built in 1941, a jail cell was included. The town no longer has any type of jail facilities.

The earliest courts in Wheatfield were operated by justices of the peace. Early record show that Albert Van Doozer was justice of the peace in 1914; Robert Manz in 1920's; Sam Creager in 1929; Nick Bierma in 1946; Alva Jay in 1948; Harry Nelson in 1958; Omer Darner in the 1960's and Roger Sculley from October 1970 through 1975.

In 1976 the town of Wheatfield established the position of town judge. Roger Sculley served from January 1, 1976 to August 1978. Gerhart A. Sternal was town judge from September 1978 to May 1, 1979. Henry Ference served from May 24, 1979 to December 31, 1979. Paul A. Bailey was the first elected judge of Wheatfield. He was elected on the ballot in November 1979. His term runs from January 1, 1980 to December 31, 1983.

On December 15, 1941, D.R. Strader was appointed defense co-ordinator for civil defense at a special called town board meeting.

In 1956 the Wheatfield Lions Club and Legion Post 406 promoted a civil defense program. Harry Stembel of the Legion and Floyd Clark of the Lions Club were instrumental in forming a Ground Observers Corp. John McNeil and Warren Roberts were head of the corp. A small building equipped with a phone was located on the school grounds. When a plane was spotted the information on height, type and direction of flight was phoned to the center in South Bend.

In 1983 town board members are Darwin Whited, Douglas Roberts and Charles G. Scott, trustees. Margie Gray is the town clerk. The town marshal has not been an elected office for many years. He is now appointed by the town board. Present marshal is Paul Westmoreland.

Town Fire Protection

The early history of fire protection for the town is very sketchy. The first recorded purchase of a fire engine was in January 1914. The town purchased a chemical fire engine from Openchain Boyer for $150.00. In that year S.W. Hamilton was paid $21.00 for storage of the fire engine. The following year, 1915, the town found it necessary to purchase more fire hose from the Openchain Boyer Chemical Company for $8.70

The town board purchased 100 feet of additional hose in August 1927 at a cost of $60.73. Fire pails, axes, chemicals and other fire equipment were purchased in October 1929.

In August and September 1936, the town board began discussion on purchasing a new fire truck. Town board members R.O. Burrus and C.L. Gulbransen began looking for a car to make into a fire truck in January 1937. In June 1937 the town purchased fire apparatus from R.A. Neilson for $110.00. Records do not show what type of truck was purchased at this time. George Hoehn purchased the old fire truck from the town in April 1938 for $15.00. In 1938 H.E. Remley was storing the fire truck in his garage. Leon Petit was the driver of the fire truck and received $3.00 for each fire he drove to.

On April 28, 1941 the town purchased a used chemical fire truck from H.E. Imler for $1,650. The truck had a Reo chassis with a six cylinder Red Crown motor. It had six 35 gallon chemical tanks. Other equipment on the truck was an axe, a crowbar, two oil lanterns, four extinguishers, 2 ladders, 450 feet of chemical hose, a siren, a windshield and a flashing red light.

Prior to 1941, the town board rented space from different citizens to store the fire engine. On May 12, 1941,

the Town of Wheatfield accepted the offer of Goldie B. Manz to purchase a piece of property on North Main Street for $150.00. A building 24'x32' was to be built on the property. The building was to be known as the Town Hall of Wheatfield and was to be used to house the fire truck and fire equipment. In 1942 the town paid Wheatfield Lumber Company $699.86 for material for the town hall.

In 1942 John Behles was appointed fire chief with a salary of $25.00 annually. He continued as fire chief through 1944.

When Clifford Kerns became town marshal in 1946, he took over as fire chief also. When a fire call was received, Kerns asked available town men to assist fighting the fire. The fire truck had a small water tank and used chemical cartridges to create pressure for pumping water on fires.

In 1954 the Wheatfield Town Board met with several men of the community to form a fire department. As a result of the meeting the Wheatfield Volunteer Fire Department was



Wheatfield Town Hall - constructed in 1942 to be used to house the fire truck and fire equipment.

BELOW-Wheatfield Volunteer Fire Department in about 1960. Back row - Ed Tillema, Ed Bierma, Truman Nelson, Nick Tillema, Alvin Seegers, and Bill Williams. Front row - Bill Peterson, Ivan Robbins, Damon Parker, Warren Roberts, Ellison Williams, Delos Crownover and Lester Davis.



organized. Members of the organization were Ed Bierma-Fire Chief, William Peterson-Assistant Chief, Warren Roberts-Secretary Treasurer, Nick Bierma, Ed Tillema, Ivan Robbins, Damon Parker, Hillis Jeffries, Nick Tillema, Ellison Williams, Delos Crownover, Lester Davis, Miles Devine, and Clifford Kerns. A few years later they became members of the Indiana Volunteer Firemen's Association.

The newly formed department purchased a 1954 truck chassis for $2399. from Follis Motors of Wheatfield. Steel for a thousand gallon tank was purchased from Youngstown Sheet and Steel. Construction of the tank was done by Zimmerman's Body Shop of San Pierre for $900. After a total outlay of $4737, the truck was ready for service. Today, ofter almost 30 years of service, this truck is still the No. 2 truck and goes to all major fires.

Other used fire trucks were purchased in the following years to aid in fire fighting. A jeep, with a small tank, was obtained for fighting grass fires. In 1975 a new Ford pumper truck was purchased which met the needs of the department.

At 3:50 AM on December 3, 1971, the Wheatfield Volunteer Fire Department was confronted with one of the largest fires they had been called to fight. Twenty-one cars of a 106 car Penn Central freight train derailed at the north side of town. A boxcar carrying 200-55 gallon drums of nitrocellulose began exploding. The exploding barrels ignited other cars which had derailed. One tank car contained tetraethyel, a chemical which is flammable and its fumes poisonous, had derailed. Although this tank car had not caught fire, it presented a dangerous situation and the town was evacuated. Fire departments from San Pierre, North Judson, Kouts, Valparaiso, Rensselaer, Hebron, Thayer and DeMotte responded to assist the Wheatfield department. Fire hoses were strung over one-half mile to Wolf Creek so water could be pumped on the fire. Water was trained on the wreckage until 4 PM. Due to the efforts of the various fire departments the only damage to town property was the local elevator and one home was badly scorched.

One January 10, 1982, the Fire Department moved into the new building which was built just north of the old town hall. The new building houses the department's 1975 Ford pumper, the 1954 pumper and tanker combination and the jeep.

In early 1983, the department purchases a 1975 International with a 2600 gallon tank built by Tri-State Steel of Tefft.

The fire department sponsors an annual pancake supper. Funds raised from the supper are used to buy equipment and fire clothing for the department.

The present Fire Chief is Bill Mehay. Tom Bose is Assistant Chief, Dave Bierma-Treasurer, and Darwin Whited-Secretary.



Wheatfield Volunteer Fire Department fighting fire on derailed Penn Central freight train on December 3, 1971. Wheatfield Volunteer fireman Ed Bierma is the center fireman shown. The other firemen are from assisting departments. (Photo courtesy of The Post-Tribune)

Town of Wheatfield
Wheatfield, Indiana

PROCLAMATION

To All To Whom These Presents May Come, Greeting:

WHEREAS, to town of Wheatfield was platted and dedicated on December 27, 1883; and

WHEREAS, the town of Wheatfield Historical Society will be celebrating this Centennial in August, 1983;

NOW THEREFORE:, we, the Wheatfield Town Board do hereby proclaim August 18-19-20, 1983 as

WHEATFIELD CENTENNIAL DAYS

throughout the town of Wheatfield and urge the community to observe and celebrate these dates as would befit a Centennial Celebration.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have caused to be affixed the signatures of the members of the Town Board of Wheatfield, Indiana in the Wheatfield Town Hall this 16th day of June 1983.

Darwin R. Whited

Douglas L. Roberts

Charles D. Scott Sr

Margie Gray - Clerk

Gaslight To Electricty

Before the turn of the century illumination was provided by gaslight. One of the duties of the town marshal was to light the gas lights. Earliest records of a lamp lighter show that Charles Jensen was pain $1.50 a month for filling and lighting the town street lamps in 1901.

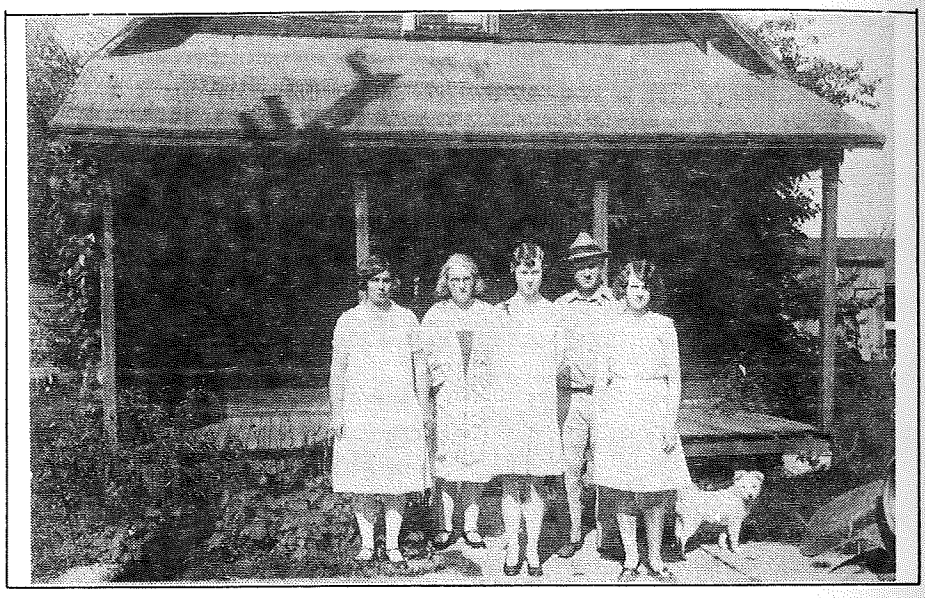
Lamp lighters were retained by the town until 1916 when the first electric plant was established by Ward Hamilton. Hamilton had previously been a lamp lighter in 1909. Electricity was generated by burning corn cobs. The light plant was located near the present town hall. Electricity was produced only in the mornings and at night. Thursday was a special day, electricity was produced a couple of hours in the afternoon so the ladies of the community could run their new electric irons.

In 1919 Harry Gulbransen took over the operation of the light plant. In 1923 it was officially named Kankakee Valley Electric. In late 1924 Calumet Gas and Electric Company begam providing electric service to the community. Calumet Gas and Electric Company changed their name to Northern Indiana Public Service Company in 1926. Robert Kerns was NIPSCO's first meter reader for the town of Wheatfield. That year the local NIPSCO office was located in the hotel on the west side of Main Street next to the railroad tracks.

Communications

Before telephones came to the area, the telegraph system was the main source of outside communication. The messages received over the wires were often posted at the depot and the citizens gathers there to get the latest news.

In the early 1890's Abraham Halleck of DeMotte was instrumental in stringing the first telephone wires in Jasper County. This phone service was established between the towns of DeMotte, Wheatfield and Kniman. It eventually developed into the Halleck Telephone Company operating 150 miles of wire. Later the Wheatfield exchange was known as the Wheatfield Telephone Company. United Telephone Company has provided service to this area since the late 1950's.



Old telephone office located in Wheatifeld on Grove Street. Pictured are Ethel Poisel Hight, Hazel Dunn, Gertrude Dunn, Mervin Dunn, and Marian Dunn. Taken about late 1930's.

Newspapers

News was a very important part of the early settlers lives. A newspaper was a means of tying people together and unifying them. The first records of a newspaper in Wheatfield was "The Sheaf" which was printed in 1884-85. This is just one year after the platting of the town. In 1897 the "Kankakee Valley Eagle" was the local newspaper.

"The Kankakee Valley Review" was published from 1904 until sometime after 1927. John Bowie was the publisher. The publication served the community for the longest period of time of any of the local papers.

"The Wheatfield Sentinel" was published in 1933. John S. Blue, publisher, had just graduated from high school and decided the town needed a newspaper. There had been no local newspaper published in the years just prior to 1933. The local businessmen took ads and supported Blue in order to get the paper started. A very interesting feature of the paper was a column "Down Old Timers Row". The column told the history of different early Wheatfield settlers. Due to the economic decline of the 1930's the paper was published for only three issues.

For the next 32 years, there was no local newspaper published in the town. In 1965 Jerry Clark started a small tabloid newspaper "The Profile". In 1970 Clark sold the "Profile" to Joan Whitaker. This newspaper went out of business in 1973. There has been no local paper for the past ten years.

Early Businesses

As settlers moved into the area the necessity of obtaining goods was apparent. Many of the early settlers came to the area with the purpose of operating a business to supply the needs of the area citizens.

General and Grocery Stores

John Welsh operated a general store in 1882. The first post office was also located in Welsh's store.

Another of the early general stores was operated by John H. Tilton in the building where Robbins TV is now located. The Tilton home was located next door to the store.

By 1908 several stores handling food items had been established in the community. Myers Cash Store handled groceries, dry goods and shoes in 1906. Pinter's Old Reliable sold dry goods, shoes, clothing, gent's furnishings and groceries. Anderson's Store sold groceries and general merchandise. The Wheatfield Meat Market was run by Otto Hoehn and Henry Gilbranson. George J. Hoehn operated the Cash-Meat Market. In November 1908 John Knight of LaCrosse bought the meat market fron Henry Gilbranson. Geroge J. Hoehn was operating a Grocery and Meat Market in 1924 and was in business yet in the 1940's.

In about 1912 Thomas Jensen was operating a General Store just west of the Myers and Myers Department Store on Grove Street. Jensen sold clothing and general merchandise. Herman Langdon eventually bought out the Myers and Myers Department Store. Walter Hoehn was the next owner of the original Myers and Myers Department Store. Vada and Ellison Williams were the last owners of that store.



Myers and Myers Department Store, located on Main and Grove Street. Taken before 1906.

Hardware Stores

In 1897 Alfred S. and Mary C. Barlow operated a Hardware Store at the north east corner of Grove and Concord Streets. They were still in business in 1933. In 1908 M&M Ocker operated a hardware business on Main

Street. In 1915 Giffert was running a hardware store in the Independent Order of Odd Fellows building. Earl Darner operated a hardware store in the IOOF building from about 1918 until 1929. In 1933 T.C. Sayers operated a general hardware store.

The Bierma family began running a hardware store in 1939. Bierma Hardware is still operating in the same location today. The business has been expanded and the building remodeled and enlarged.

Stables, Blacksmiths, Draylines, And Harness Shops

In the late 1890's Alfred S. Keene was operating a livery stable on Grove Street, west of Wolf Street. In the late 1800's a livery barn was on the site of the present American Legion property. In 1900 Harman Clark ran a livery and sales barn. Wm. McNeil ran a livery stable in the 1920's. This was just north of the present Robbins TV store and was near the hotel for easy access to people lodging overnight in Wheatfield.

In 1885 Engelbret Jensen was operating a blacksmith shop. His son Jense O., joined him in the smithing business which continued until 1918. In 1908 Jense was operating a blacksmith, woodworking, carriage painting and general repairs shop located on Center and Grove Streets.

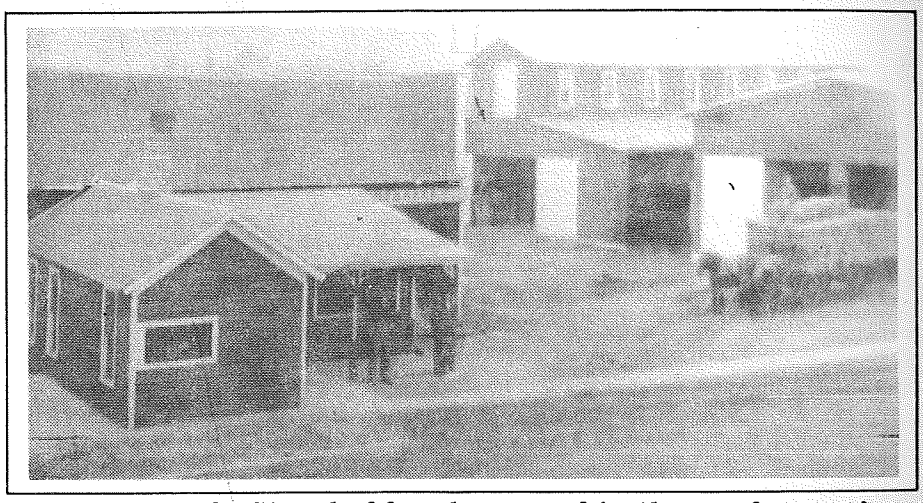
Albert Keene operated a harness shop near the corner of Grove and Concord Streets at the turn of the century. Other harness shops were located on Main Street.

Henry LaFayette Langdon operated a drayline and livery stable after settling in Wheatfield. In 1906 Sam Payne was proprietor of a draying and express company.

Lumber Yards

In the 1880's W.E. Sweeney operated a lumber and hay business. In 1903 George O. Stembel and E.T. Biggs formed a partnership in the lumber, hay and farm implement business. In 1904 Stembel became the sole owner of this business. In 1908 J.A. Akers was in the lumber business.

The Helmich Lumber was located on the south west corner of Center and Grove Streets. In 1919 William J. and Ita Helmich sold their property at Center and Grove to the Wheatfield Lumber Company. In 1935, Myrtle B. Moorman was president and F. Forrest Whitson was secretary of the Wheatfield Lumber Company. This lumber company relocated in 1936 to the site of the Stembel Lumber Company. Don Strader was manager and Jack Tilton was assistant manager in 1943. Ellie Williams and Albert Wicks were the yard men. Miss Lois Myers worked for the lumber company from December 1943 until January 1962. In 1943 the lumber company was half owned by John William Whitson. The other half was owned by Mrs. Leonard Raftree and her sister. In the spring of 1961 Von Tobel purchased the lumber company. The lumber company went out of business in January 1962. The property was then sold the the James Craig family.



The George O. Stembel lumber yard in the early 1900's. George and Oscar Stembel are standing on the porch of the office. Albert Stembel is on the hay wagon.

Saloons

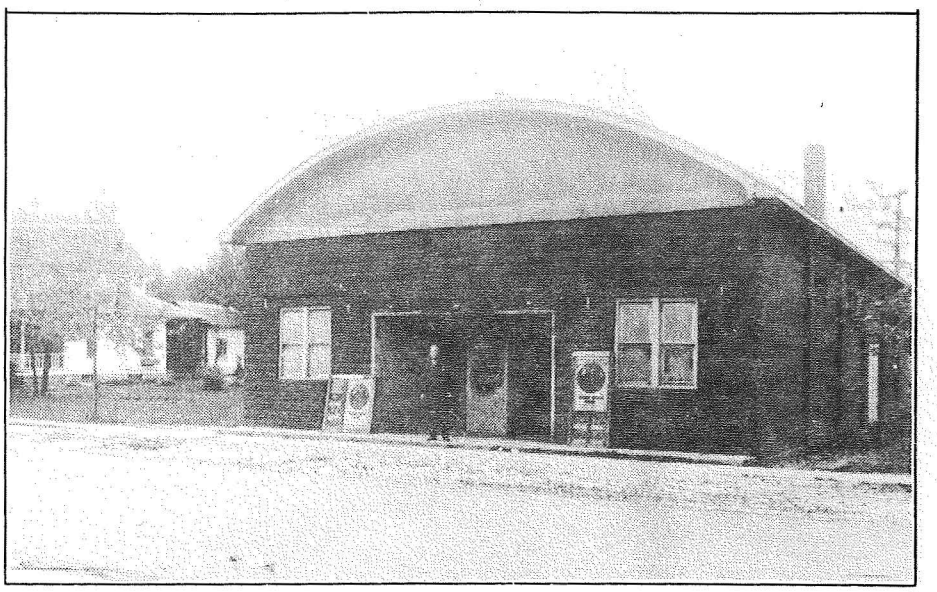
Saloons were a popular business in the early years of the town's history. A saloon license cost $150.00 in 1897. Saloon licenses were issued to T.J. Erwin and M. Bernicken in 1897. George Nickols and Harmon Clark purchased saloon licenses in 1898. A pool table license was another $10 and a card table license was another fee. John McGlinn became a saloon keeper in 1905.

Entertainment

In 1904 the Remley Opera House and Dance Hall was located on Grove Street where the present Ron Hine family lives. In that year the Wheatfield Comedy Company was performing plays at the local opera house and in surrounding communities In October 1908 Henry Gilbranson leased the opera house from Remley. An opera house was also located on Main Street north of Robbins TV building.

The Jensen Theatre was in operation from about 1919 until 1929. The theatre was in the building where presently Elmer Wolf has his garage. Silent movies were shown until talking films took over the movie business. Dances, basketball games and graduations were also held in the theatre.

From before the turn of the century, entertainment was a very important part of life to the people of Wheatfield. Traveling shows of all kinds were available. There were medicine shows, rodeos, street fairs, band concerts, animal shows, poetry readings, box socials, dances, singing groups, lodges, carry-in dinners, circus entertainment and clubs.



Jensen Theatre operated by Engelbret Jensen in the 1920's



Clark Hotel at left, and Eagle Hotel at right in about 1908. The hotels were located at the north end of Main Street, next to the railroad tracks.



McNeil Hotel about 1910. Pictured are l. to r. unknown, Carrie McNeil, Mollie Rogers, unknown, unknown, Horace Marble, seated Alva McNeil, unknown, unknown, unknown, John Whitaker, Albert Keene, William McNeil, Frank Ira, and Austin Melcher.

Hotels

The building of the railroads brought more people to the area. A place to lodge the travelers was needed. The Eagle Hotel was established in the early 1880's. It was located on the west side of Main Street next to the railroad tracks. Before the Catholic Church was built, their services were held in the Eagle Hotel for a short time.

The Helmich Hotel was built about 1900. It was also located on Main Street, just east, across the street, from the Eagle Hotel. Prior to 1908 Harmon Clark purchased the Helmich Hotel and changed the name to Clark Hotel. Clark also ran a livery and sales barn in connection with the hotel. In late 1908 Clark sold his hotel to William McNeil.

Prior to 1908, J. McGlinn was operating the McGlinn Hotel on Railroad and Center Street. He later sold his business to Albert Dunn. Several years later Swisher's were operating a boarding house on the same location as the McGlinn Hotel.

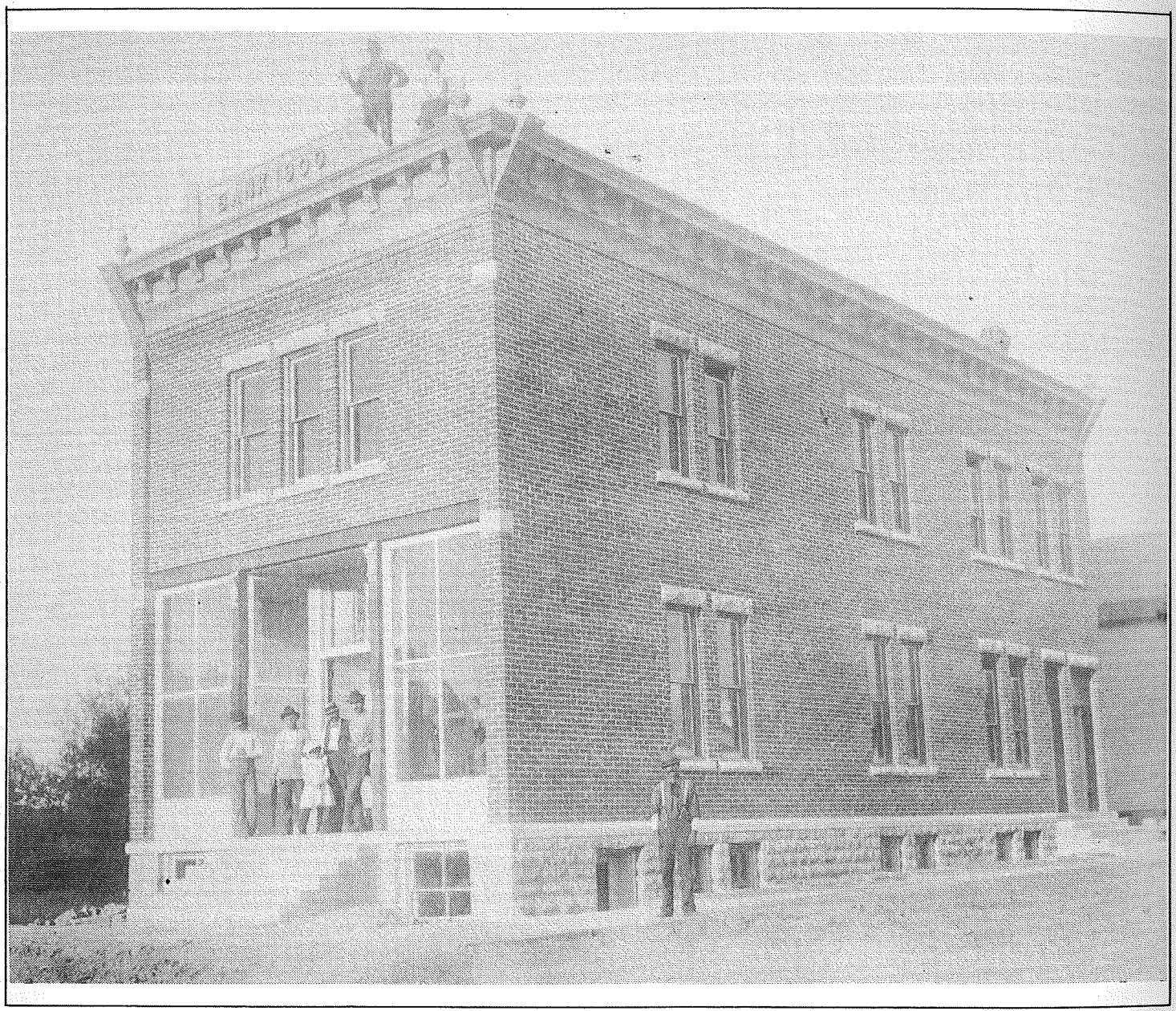
In the 1920 "Grandma" Paxton was operating the former Eagle Hotel. The last known operator of the Eagle Hotel was Pete Astronski.

Banks

The Wheatfield Bank was organized as a private institution in 1900. The first president was Robert Parker and first cashier was J.P. Hammond. In 1908 the bank officers were Horace Marble - president, E.L. Hollingsworth - vice president, and J.P. Hammond - cashier. On January 19, 1931, trustees were appointed to liquidate the bank.

The town of Wheatfield was without a local bank until March 6, 1965 when the Wheatfield Branch of the State Bank of Rensselaer was opened for business. This bank was opened in a new building at the corner of Main and High Streets. The first branch manager was Willard Merritt.

A new building was built on the corner of Main and South Streets in 1977. They opened for business on December 12, 1977. Jack Shearer was the first manager. The present manager is Doris Hockett.



Wheatfield Bank in 1900, right after construction was finished.

Professional People

In its early years Wheatfield had several professional men. Doctors, dentists and lawyers were a necessity to a thriving community. W.C. Schwier served as health officer in 1897. In 1906 C.M. Rice, M.D. served as the health officer. Lucius H. Zeuch M.D. was a physcian and surgeon in 1906, his office was located in the Myers building on Byron Street.

M.B. Fyfe M.D. served as the town doctor in the Myers and Myers building from 1908 to 1919. J.C. Bucher, M.D. took over Dr. Fyfe's practice in 1919 and was still the local doctor in 1924. At one time his office was located on Main Street between the Myers building and the Tilton home.

A traveling dentist, Dr. H.S. Stoddard was in Wheatfield one day each week and saw his patients in an office in the Myers building. In November 1908, Dr. H.W. Osher located in Dr. Zeuch's offices and was the town's first resident dentist.

Dr. J.R. Manz D.D.S. opened his practice in Wheatfield in May 1921. He practiced in Wheatfield until his death in May 1941.

John Greve was the town attorney in 1897. Roy Blue joined Greve in the practice of law in 1903.

Charles B. Steward was one of the first insurance salesmen in town. He was selling insurance in 1897. In 1898 insurance on the town jail for a year cost $4.50. The Cleveland Life Insurance Company was operated by John Bowie. Olan Minor operated an insurance and real estate business in an office in the old bank building. Grover Smith ran an insurance business for many years in Wheatfield. In 1908 Smith was the rural mail carrier.The only known undertakers establishment in Wheatfield was operated by Albert S. Keene in the early 1900's.

Restaurants

One of the earliest recognized restaurants was John Graves restaurant. This was located on Byron Street between Remley's Opera House and Barlow's Hardware in the early 1900's.

In 1908 Mike Bernicken was operating Mike's Restaurant in the IOOF building..

Mrs. Mitchell operated the Seminole Restaurant near the depot in the 1920's.

Ethel Cooper was operating the Home Restaurant in the 1930's.



Seminole Restaurant located on Main and Railroad Streets in 1920's.

Other Businesses

Many other businesses contributed to the growing town of Wheatfield in its early years.

In 1908 Thompson's Barber Shop was sold to Skeet Hendrickson. Frank Fisher operated a barber shop next to the bank building in the 1920's. Tom Myers later operated a barber shop in Dr. Bucher's old office in 1927. In 1933 Harry Nelson opened his barber shop on Main Street.

Henry Hidenblue operated a shoe shop on Main Street in 1918. Phillip Kerns had a shoe cobblers shop on Center and Grove in 1933.

Ladies seeking the latest fashions went to the dress shop of Mrs. Roy Blue. In the early 1900's a millinery shop was located on Byron Street. Another early hat shop was located at the corner of Center and Grove Street in one room of a local residence.

A jewelry shop was operated by Albert VanDoozer in 1906. He was a watch maker and jeweler. His store carried a line of watches, clocks, jewelry, optical goods, musical goods and other items. He also repaired violins and muscial instruments.

The National Pickle and Canning Company was operating in 1908. They were located by the old "Coalie" railroad tracks between Center and Grace Streets. They paid 60¢ for a bushel of pickles. In 1916 the pickle factory was operated by Clausen Pickle Company.

Allen Odell operated a reed factory just east of the present feed mill in the 1940's. They produced reeds for woodwind instruments and shipped them all over the United States.

John A. Williams ran a tile factory in the early years of Wheatfield's history.

For many years Mrs. Elsie Vandercar operated a loom shop in her home. She was well known for her rag rugs.

The Cream Station was operated by Frank Armantrout in 1924. It was located just east of the bank on Grove Street, and also sold poultry, veal and eggs. Other cream stations were located further east on Grove Street. Leon Petit operated a creamery and bake shop in 1933 at the same location as Armantrout's cream station.

William McNeil ran a Ford car dealership located on north Main Street, in the 1920's. Harry Remley ran another of the early car dealerships located where Central Garage is today. Remley sold Hudson Terraplanes. Later he sold Plymouths and Chevrolets. Pat Clark operated a Packard agency in the Central

Garage location in about 1948. Lester and Glen Holbrook operated a Kaiser-Fraizer and Henry J. dealership at the present laundromat location.

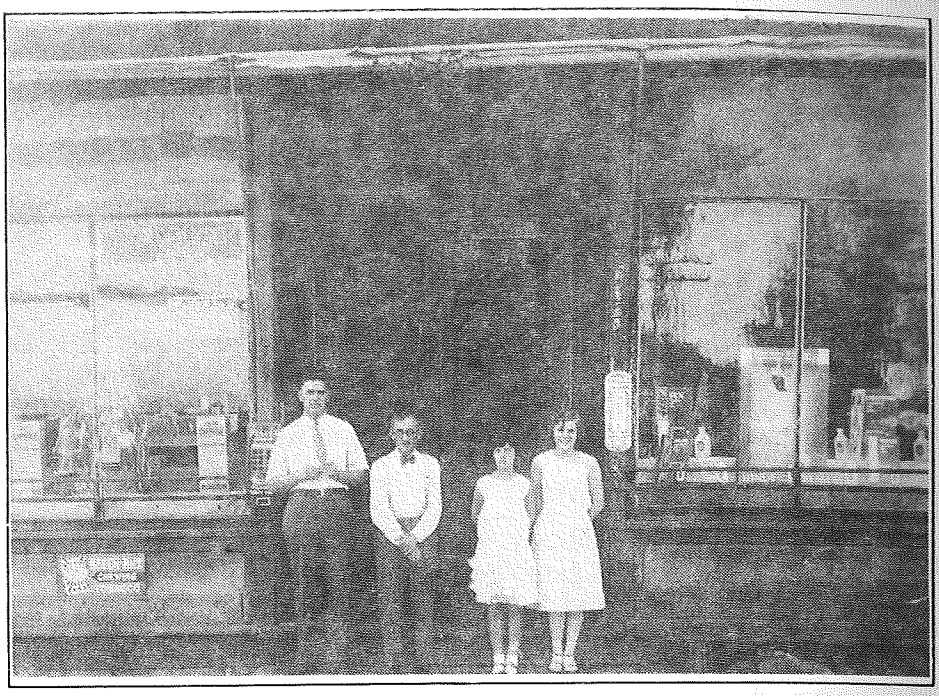
Sampson and Kerns operated an Oliver tractor dealership in Elmer Wolf's garage. Joe McFarland sold Massey-Ferguson equipment in the early 1950's.

Winkler's Hatchery was located where Wheatfield Beauty Cottage presently stands.

Hay barns were a necessity to the early settlers. Two large hay barns were located near the "Coalie" right-of-way. One barn was located on the present town park site. Much of the hay was actually swamp grass which was shipped to the cities by rail, to be used as packing.

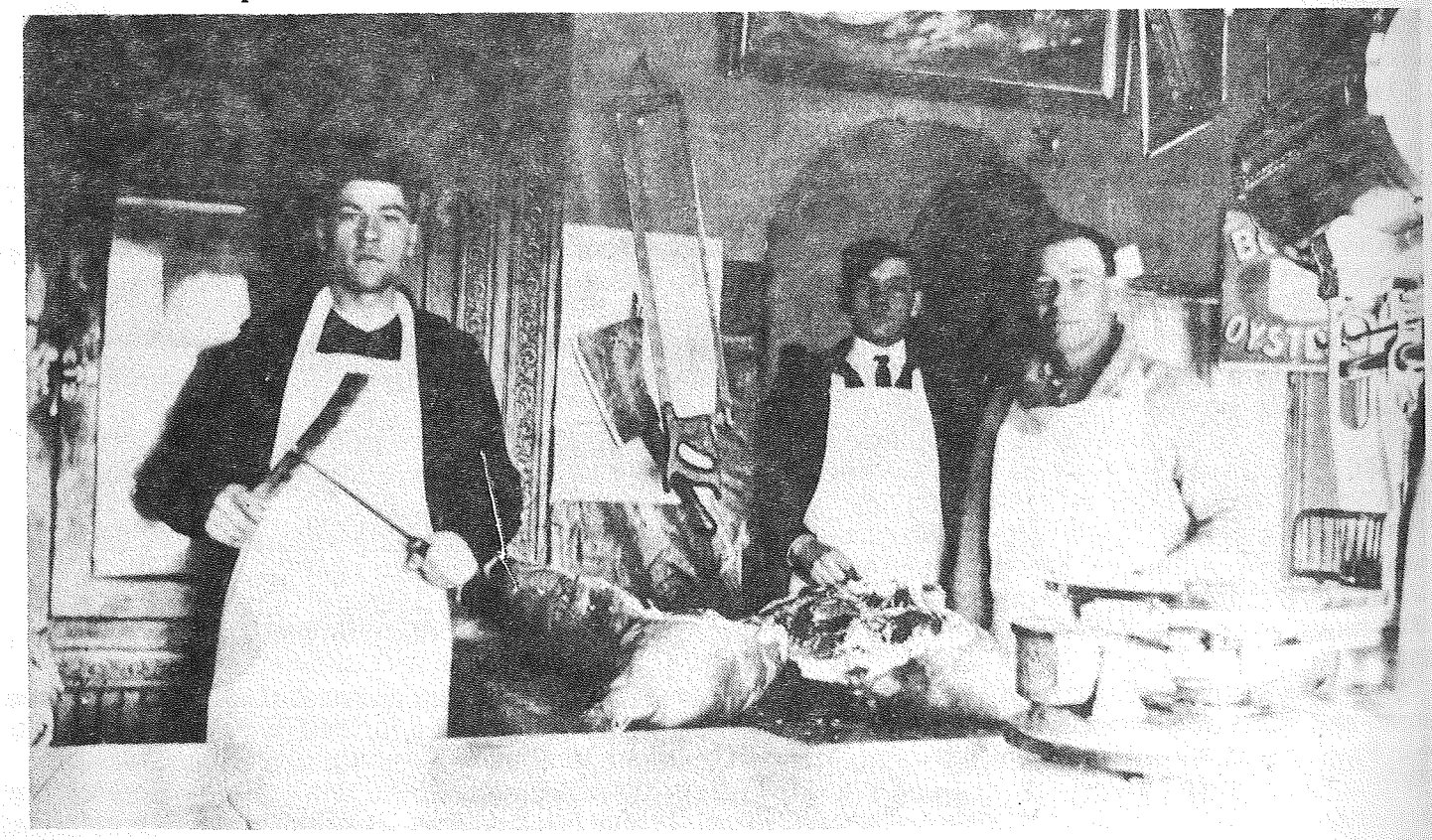
Isaac Knapp operated a slaughter house directly north of the railroad tracks on S.R. 49 at the present Forrest Thomas property. George Hoehn operated a slaughter house just south of Wheatfield where the present gun club is today.

Grover Smith operated a feed and grist mill in 1908.



Simon Fendig was operating a drug store on Main Street in 1898. Mr. Fendig was active in school and town affairs. Pictured is Dewey Nelson, Simon Fendig, Mildred Steele Boezeman Pinter and Nelda Ropp Kingman in front of the Fendig Store in 1930.

Local garages were operated by M&M Ocker in about 1906, Duggleby's in 1924 and Mr. Westman in the late 1920's. Mr. Westman's garage was located where the present Wheatfield Feed Mill is located.



Pictured on the left is Elmer Kerns in a local meat market.

Churches

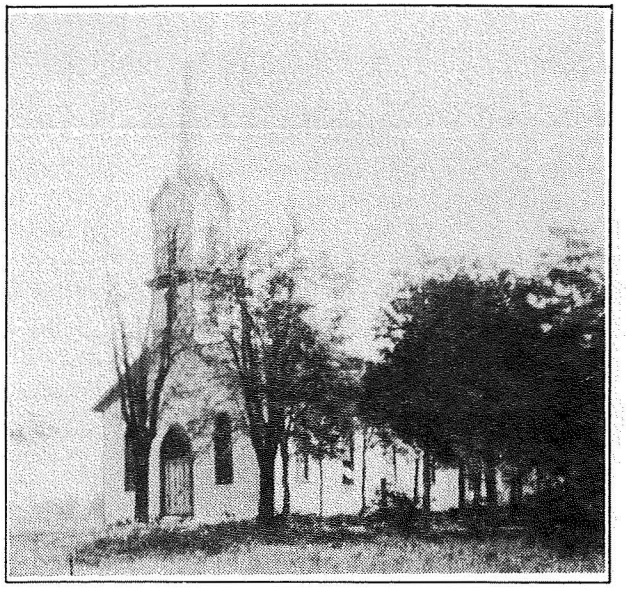
Sorrowful Mother Catholic Church

In 1886 a little log church was built under the direction of Rev. Dominic Shunk. This was later replaced by a large frame building.

Father Kondziela of Kouts was acting as the missionary priest in 1945. Under his direction the Don Bosco Youth Center was built. The youth hall burned completely down in 1960.

A new frame and stone church and hall was built in 1962 under the direction of Father Frederick Perry.

Rev. Joseph Ackerman is the current priest. Under his direction a new addition of class rooms was complete in 1983.



Sorrowful Mother Catholic Church dedicated on May 1, 1887.

Wheatfield Baptist Church

In 1942 The Rev. Charles Morris came to Wheatfield and organized a small church. The congregation met at what was called the Sand Hill Tabernacle and in the homes of members of the congregation. Construction of the church was begun on the site of the former Methodist Church. The church is unique in that it is constructed of stone quarried from different areas in Indiana. Much of the lumber used was donated. The church was erected under the supervision of Rev. Morris with the help of many local persons donating labor, material and equipment. The corner stone was laid in 1945 and services were held in the church beginning in 1951. In 1951 the Baptist Church was organized and in 1953 was reorganized. In 1953, Rev. Everret W. Hayes became the first resident pastor. The educational unit was dedicated in June 1975. The present pastor is the Rev. John Carter.

Wheatfield Church Of Christ

In 1978 the Wheatfield Church of Christ celebrated their 100th anniversary. The church was officially established in February 1878 by twelve charter members with six to eight additional members. The Church of Christ building was erected in about 1888 or 1889 by Presley E. Davis, one of the early settlers of the Wheatfield area. Members of the church met in the Wheatfield school prior to the construction of the building. The original church housed a bell in its steeple until it was moved in 1945. The church was renovated in 1943 and a baptistry was installed in 1965. In early 1983 the original church building was donated to Christian Haven Homes and moved to their property. A new brick building was constructed in 1983.



Pictured is the Methodist Episcopal Church which was located at the site of the present Baptist Church. The church was in existance from about 1900 until it was struck by lightning in the late 1920's or early 1930's.

Full Gospel Tabernacle

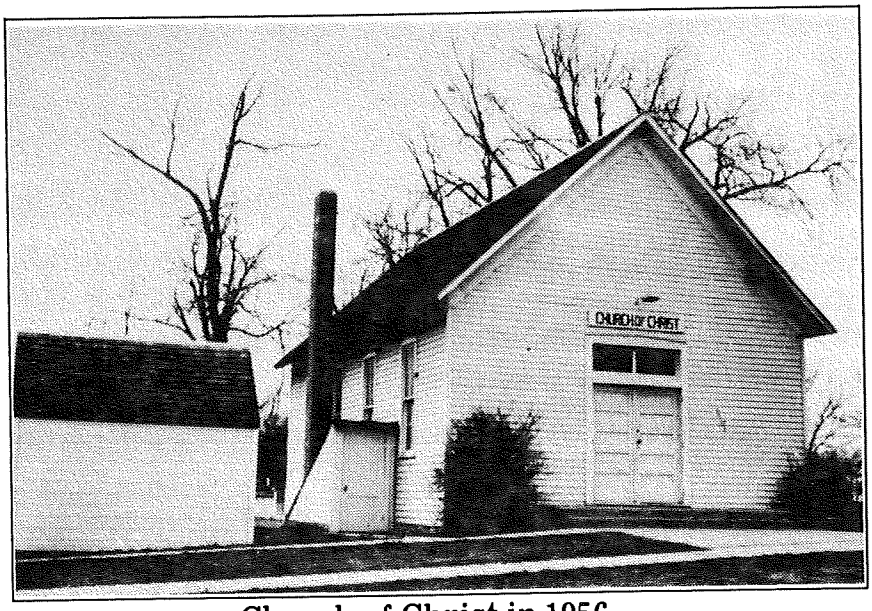
Ada Roe, a missionary, started the church in 1937. Services were held in a building on Grove Street, just west of the present bakery. The church has been in its present location at Center and Grove Streets since 1940. A parsonage was built next to the church in 1954. A Sunday School addition was constructed on the north end of the church in 1956. Roger Sculley is the present pastor.

Pentacostal Church Of God

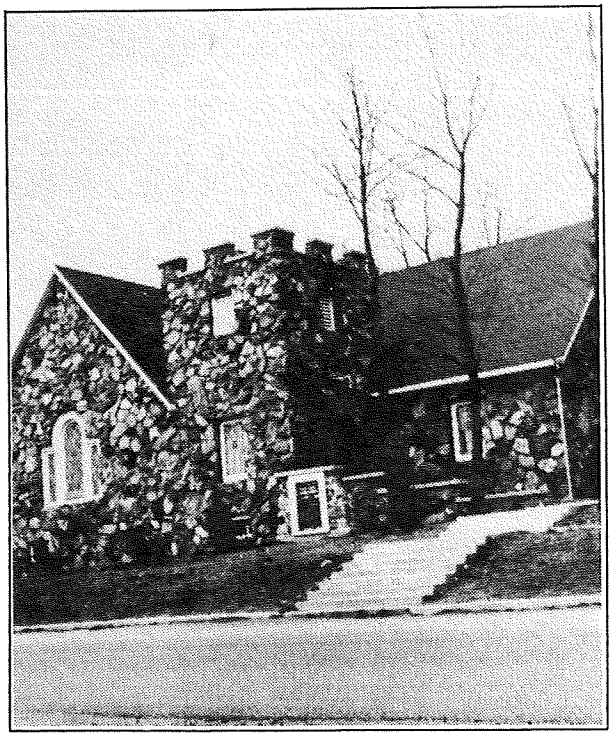
The Pentacostal Church of God was started in April 1967. The congregation met in the building on Main Street where Robbins TV is presently located. A new church was built on South Street and occupied by the congregation in 1970. Eveston Risner continues to serve as the only pastor of the church.

Calvary Evangelical Free Church

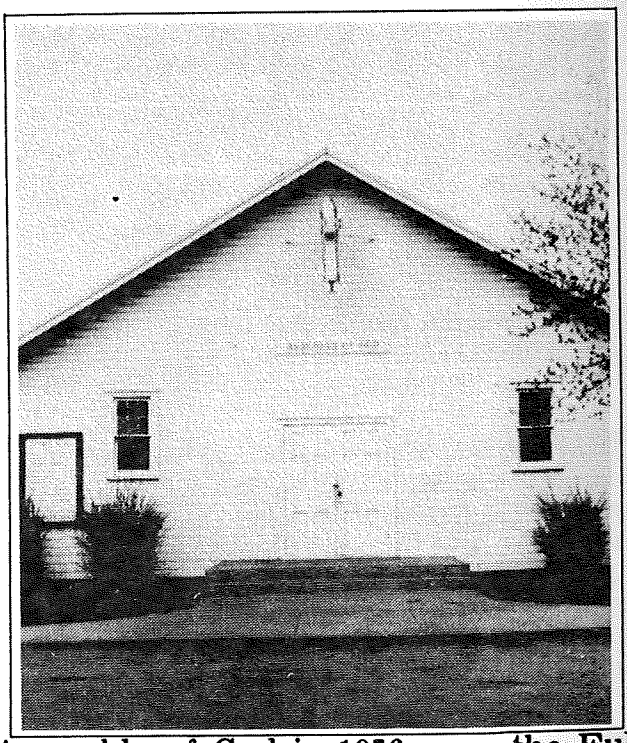
Calvary Evangelical Free Church was formed in 1975 in Kouts, Indiana, as part of the Great Lakes District of the Evangelical Free Church of America. In 1981 Calvary Christian School was established. In July, 1982, Calvary EFC relocated from Kouts to Wheatfield. The previous building was inadequate and land became avaialble through the generosity of Mr. Forrest Thomas of Wheatfield, to erect a new church. The congregation of Calvary EFC have constructed a 64,000 sq. ft. building which will house the church, the school and a day care center. The Rev. Lance V. Long is the pastor of the church.



Church of Christ in 1956.



First Baptist Church in 1956.



Assembly of God in 1956, now the Full Gospel Tabernacle

School History

In the early 1800's, the schools were controlled entirely by the different townships. Most of the schools were only one room and made of logs. Sometime after 1865 regular lumber was used to build the schools. From 1865 to 1873, the school year ranged from one month to almost four months. The length of the school months were determined by the amount of money the trustee had for school operations. Teacher's pay was from $1.00 to $1.66 per day. By 1879 the length of the school term was 5 months. Students ages ranged from six years to 21 years. By 1912 the school term had increased to seven to eight months and teachers received from $2.40 to $3.25 per day. By 1918 a teacher was earning almost $4.00 a day.

In Wheatfield Township there were several one room schoolhouses. Many of then were located in or just outside of the town of Wheatfield. These were the Misch School, Grube School, Wheatfield Center, Riverside or River School and Walker Center in Walker Township. In 1942 the Riverside School was moved into the town to be used for additional class room space for the Wheatfield High School. In 1973 the school became the home of the Wheatfield Library.



Early School, built in 1870.

Walker Center school was located at the corner of Highway 49 and 900 North, three miles south of Wheatfield. The first owner was Thomas Clark, who bought the land from the state on November 8, 1859. A thirteen rod square parcel was deeded to the trustee of Walker Township in September 1889 for a school to be built there. Both school and church services were held in the building. The school closed in 1938. In the 1940's Dale M. Jefferson tore down the school and used much of the lumber to build a two story home on the Walker Center School site.

In town there was a Lutheran church school which now is the present residence of Walter Myers. There was a two room school near the location once known as Hillard's store or now the arcade. This school was called Wheatfield School and Mr. Roy Blue was the first school teacher there. On December 6, 1883, Trustee W.S. Shaffmer hired Mr. Charles Flagg to teach the Wheatfield Center School. The Gates School was located south of Main Street in 1863.



Walker Center School, May 1915.

In 1907 a new Wheatfield Town school was built. It was a two story brick building used for grades 1-12. In that year Mr. R. J. Owen became the first superintendent. Mr. P. R. Blue served in 1908-09. Mr. M. L. Sterrett was superintendent in 1909-12 and again in 1915. Another superintendent was Mr. Lester A. Sayers, 1912-15.

According to Town Board records, in 1906 J.P. Hammond was Treasurer of the Town School Board. On March 12, 1908 Hammond resigned from the Town School Board. Lucius H. Zeuch, M.D. was appointed to fill his post. Other officers that year were George O. Stembel, president and Simon Fendig, secretary. In 1921 R.A. Mannan served as Treasurer of the Town School Board. In each of these years the Town Board transferred monies to the School Board for school funds.

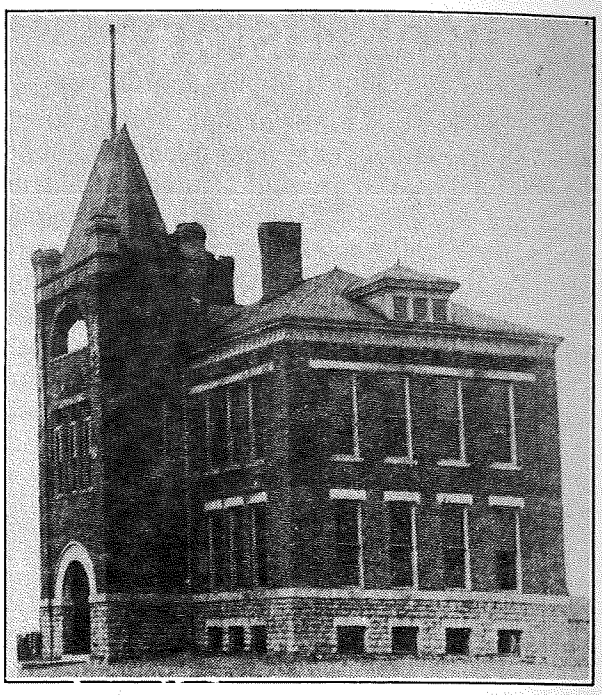
On January 19, 1928, the Wheatfield Town Board met and discussed plans of abandoning the Town School Board and placing the school in the hands of the township trustee. The town attorney P.R. Blue was asked to check into this matter.

According to the Field Examiners Report of Wheatfield School Town for August 1, 1928, to July 3, 1929 total disbursement for the elementary and high school were $10,376.73. Of that amount $7,728.00 went for the salaries of principals and teachers. The total cost of lights and power to run the school for one year was $26.72. Fuel for heating the school was $446.97 that year. $4,465.54 of the total receipts of the school had been collected from Wheatfield Township, Barkley Township and Walker Township as transfer fees for tuition. Simon Fendig was the treasurer of the Town School at that time.

The cost of operating the Kankakee Valley School Corporation in much higher today. Total disbursements for the calendar year of 1982 for KVSC were $6,097,377.99. Certified salaries for teachers and administrators was $2,973,766.66. The cost of power and fuel has also escalated. Total cost of energy was $316,787.79 for 1982.

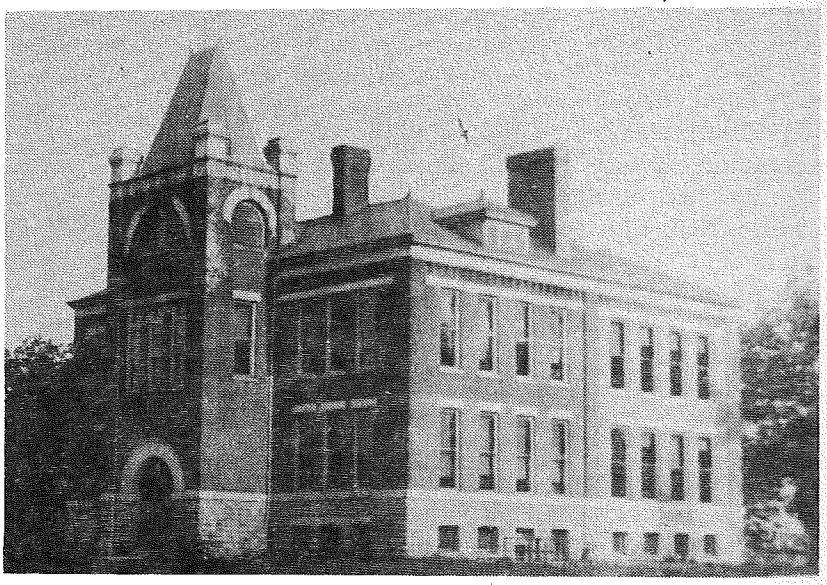
During the 1920's Town Board records show the appointment of Ollie Langdon, Simon Fendig, Mrs. H.E. Remley and Bonnie Smith as members of the Wheatfield Town School Board. A special Wheatfield Town Board meeting was called on January 24, 1931 by Town Board President George J. Hoehn for the purpose of presenting the legal abandonment of the Public Schools of the Town of Wheatfield. The resolution read "Be it resolved by the Board of Trustees of the Town of Wheatfield, Jasper County, Indiana, being an incorporate town, the inhabitants of which do not exceed two thousand as shown by the last proceeding limited States census, that said Town does hereby abolish the Board of School Trustees there in, and abondon and discontinue its management and control of the Public Schools within such incorporated Town." All board members voted affirmative and the resolution was passed.

The Town Board directed the Board of Town School Trustees to prepare and execute a proper deed to transfer all real and personal property and deliver it to Guy Jones, Trustess of Wheatfield School Township. Town Attorney Phillip R. Blue was hired to take care of all legal matters pertaining to the transfer of the school property to Wheatfield Township. Following this legal transfer the town was no longer in charge of the local school. The schools were now the responsibility of the township.



Wheatfield Town School, built in 1907.

In 1931 the addition of a gymnasium and auditorium was made to the school. In 1952 a cement block building was built to be used as a farm shop. In 1954 a new four room elementary building was constructed to hold grades 1-4. In the early 1970's a new addition for grades 1-6 was added to accommodate students from the consolidation of other area schools that were closed. Another addition was later made for kindergarten classes. In 1972 the Wheatfield High School was torn down.



Wheatfield School after first addition.

In Kankaee Township, the Dunnville School in Tefft first operated in 1896. By 1916 all one room schoolhouses were closed and all grades attended school in Tefft. 1916 and 1938 additions were added to the Tefft School. In February 1971 Tefft School was closed. At that time, the high school students went from Wheatfield to the new Kankakee Valley Junior-Senior High School. In May 1973, Tri-State Steel purchased the Tefft school building from Alfred Schrader.

Kankakee Valley School Corporation was formed on January 1, 1965. The reorganization included Kankakee, Wheatfield, Keener, Walker and the north half of Union Township. Schools in operation at that time were Fair Oaks, Tefft, Kniman, DeMotte and Whe~tfield.



Wheatfield School after addition of gymnasium and auditorium.

During the next six years, Kankakee Valley consolidated and improved school facilities. Four schools, Fair Oaks, Kniman, Tefft and Wheatfield High School were closed.

A new consolidated high school was complete in 1971 costing near 4.2 million dollars. Kankakee Valley Junior Senior High School was built to accommodate 1200 students.

A new Middle School was completed beside the high school for grade 6-8 in 1978. The Middle School cost 9.2 million dollars and can accommodate at least 750 students.



Tefft School, 1936.

Clubs and Organizations

Many clubs and organizations were the backbone of community life in the early years of the town's history. The Rathbone Sisters, Modern Woodmen of America, Loyal Order of the Forresters, Wheatfield Development Association and Independent Order of Odd Fellows were active at the turn of the century and the early 1900's. The Modern Woodmen of America were very active in the 1920's and met in Keene's hall. They had about 70 active members. The Independent Order of Odd Fellows were active in the 1890's and disbanded in about 1970. Although none of these organzations are now active, many others have formed in the community.

Masons

The Wheatfield Mason Lodge No. 642 F.&A.M. was chartered May 28, 1902. George O. Stembel was the first Worshipful Master. In the early 1900's they met in the basement of the bank building on Main and Grove Streets. In later years they met in the upstairs of the Ivan Robbins TV building. The Masons built their own lodge hall at the east end of town on High Street. They moved into the new building in January 1982. The building was dedicated on September 4, 1982 with Grand Master Clarence A. Tapper, from Hammond, officiating.



Members of the Wheatfield Masonic Lodge in the late 1940's. Back row - Wad Duggleby, Leonard Jensen, Lowell Woolever, Jack Smith and Ed Pierson, Front row - Warren Boyle, Winfred Hammerton, Hank Starkey, Carroll Roberts, Alva Jay and Alfred Duggleby.

Rebekah Lodge

The Rebekah Lodge was organized in Wheatfield in approximately 1892. The group continued until 1917 when they gave up their charter. The lodge reorganized and regained their charter in 1941. In 1974 they were consolidated with the Gifford Rebekah Lodge. Two of the 1941 charter members are still in the lodge. They are Mrs. May Hoehn and Mrs. May Fulaytar.

The Wheatfield Lions Club

The Wheatfield Lions Club was chartered May 4, 1947. The first president was Harry J. Nelson. They were incorporated December 1958. The first president after incorporation was Eugene Stalbaum.

The Lions contribute to the Lions Cancer Control Center, Leader Dog for the Blind, and Indiana Eye Bank. They also buy glasses for the needy, sponsor the Halloween Costume Parade, and treats for the school Christmas program.

Their main project is putting on fish frys so other organizations can make money.

The current president is Nick Bierma.

Stevenson-Gault Post 339

The Stevenson-Gault Post 339 of Wheatfield was chartered on May 17, 1921. Samuel A. Fendig was the post commander and Richard D. Bowie was the post adjutant. Charter members were Samuel A. Fendig, William R. Myers, Silas A. Hipsher, Albert H. Rosing, Frank Grube, William Miller, Louis A. Misch, Martin Hoffman, Frank Fenzel, Curtis Steele, Earl Obenchain, Roland Myers, James Campbell, Guy L. Minor, Murray Myers, Russel Hickam, Richard D. Bowie, Oscar J. Stembel, George H. Williams, James Mize, Harry I. Stembel, Alfred Murray, Charles Cooper and William A. Custard.

Stevenson-Gault Auxiliary 339

The Stevenson-Gault Auxiliary of Post 339 was chartered on May 21, 1921. Jessie A. Fendig was the first acting president. Charter members were Polly S. Harrington, Jessie A. Fendig, Agnes D. Bowie, Deborah L. Bowie, Jean Bowie, Jane Clark, Pauline Miller, Mary Williams, Caroline Jensen, Ita E. Jensen, Lottie Williams, Hulda Myers, Clara Stembel, Katherine Meyers, Anna C. Karch, Ella Minor, Elizabeth Clark, Edna Nordhouse, Dorcas Myers, Mary Fenzel and Clara Murray.

Wheatfield Legion Post 406

The North End Legion Post 406 was first granted a temporary charter on April 24, 1946. Charter members were Anthony F. Geraci, Damon E. Parker, Boyd E. Jones, Louis J. Sayne, William F. Stembel, John H. McNeil, Lawton E. Brown, Clarence R. Keene, Robert Kerns, Walter E. Hoehn, Jr., Leonard M. Jensen, Carroll J. Pinter, Dale E. Williams, Francis B. Grube and Bernard V. Williams.

When the legion was first organized they met in the basement of the bank building. On July 23, 1946, William Stembel was elected first commander of the post. A permanent charter was signed January 23, 1947 and Leonard Jensen was commander.

Members voted in February 1948 to look for a new home for the Post. In August 1948, the Post decided to purchase a farm from Mrs. Roy Blue. The farm was located 1/4 mile south of Wheatfield. An old barn on the property was remodeled and used as their new home.

The legion purchased 1,000 cement blocks on May 4, 1953 to build a large hall onto the home. The floor in the hall was poured in March 1956. A storage room was added on the west side of the kitchen in the early 1970's. In the summer of 1979 a picnic shelter was erected on the grounds.

A concession stand and restrooms were built west of the shelter in the summer of 1981. The Post has 22 acres of ground and much of it is used for community activities.

William Crownover is the present commander of the Wheatfield Legion Post 406.

Wheatfield American Legion Auxiliary

The First American Legion Auxiliary of Post 406 was chartered on December 14, 1948. Charter members were Lois Steele, Iris Jones, Charlotte Williams, Anna Minor, Mildred Pinter, Helen Parker, Betty I. Parker, Lillian Grube, Mary E. Scott and May Hoehn. This group was active until some time in the mid 1950's.

The Second American Legion Auxiliary of Post 406 was organized on August 22, 1968. The first president was Arla Myers.

The auxiliary sponsors a child from the Knightstown Children's Home in Knightstown, Indiana. They also sponsor three veterans at the Indiana Soldiers Home in Lafayette.

The auxiliary also sponsors a student from the junior class of the high school for Girls State every year. At Christmas time the ladies distribute fruit, and homemade candy and cookies to the senior citizens, the sick and needy. The current president is Arla Myers.

Wheatfield Historical Society

The Wheatfield Historical Society was organized in July 1981. The purpose of the society was to gather and preserve the history of the town. They also made plans to prepare for a centennial celebration in 1983. Officers elected in 1981 were Joseph Ackerman - president, Lois Ricker - vice president, Monte Neier - secretary, and Tina Ackerman - treasurer. There were eight charter members.

The Wheatfield Historical Society has been active in preparing for a centennial parade on August 20, 1983 in celebration of 100 years of the town's platting. They have also researched many old records in order to publish a centennial book of the history of Wheatfield. Officers in 1983 are Jeff Dresher - president, Lois Ricker - vice president, Elsie Jefferson - secretary, and Lillian Davis - treasurer.

Jaycees

The Wheatfield Jaycees were chartered in 1976 with the help of the Portage Jaycees. Stanley Myers was the first president. The Jaycees organization is a leadership training program for men in the community to learn to be better leaders.

The Jaycees have sponsored many projects in the community. In 1978 the Town and Country Days were taken over from the Lions Club. Square dancing, karate demonstrations and in 1983 a car show were added.

In 1980 the swamp area of the American Legion grounds was their major project. The area was filled in and turned into two softball diamonds. Kevin Roberts was chairman of the softball diamond project. The Jaycees now have one league comprised of ten teams from surrounding towns. The diamonds are self supported by selling advertisements on boards around their diamonds. Both of these projects were entered in state and national Jaycees competition. Both projects won first place for the local Jaycees. Another project started in 1980 with Ron Dusek as chairman was the Junior Olympics for children of the community. This project won a second place in the nation.

A New Year's Eve dance for the community was started in 1981. Terry Robbins was the chairman of this project. The annual attendance is now about 200 people.

A glucose machine was purchased in 1981 for an area boy so he could be treated at home. The youngster is now doing fine and no longer needs the machine. Paul Westmoreland chaired the committee for this project.

Kevin Robert was program manager for Cystic Fibrosis in 1983. The Jaycees collected $14,600 for their region. In the Wheatfield area alone, they collected $600.

The Jaycees also collected $800 for Muscular Dystrophy in 1983. Randy Whitaker was chairman of the project.

Other projects the Jaycees have been active in have been to help remodel the town library and fix the playground equipment at the elementary school.

The president of the local Jaycees in 1983 is Kevin Roberts. They have 63 members in their organization.

Jayceettes

The Wheatfield Jayceettes were organized on September 14, 1981. They Jayceettes purpose is to be a leadership training program for members. Christine Robbins was the first president.

The group has been active in raising funds for cystic fibrosis, muscular dystrophy, the Ronald McDonald House in Indianapolis, juvenile diabetes, and the Kankakee Valley special olympics.

Community activities which they have sponsored are Easter egg hunt, parties for senior citizens, children's games at Town and Country Days, and different contests in the elementary schools.

In May 1983 the Jayceettes gave two scholarships to senior girls at Kankakee Valley High School. Pam Stalbaum in the current president.

Wheatfield Library

On January 15, 1973, the community's first library was opened for business. It was housed in the former River School building, which had been relocated to the site of the former Wheatfield High School. An open house was held for the Wheatfield Branch of the Jasper County Public Library on February 3, 1973. Ethel Yoder was the first librarian and served in this capacity until January 1977. Lois Ricker is the current librarian.

Wheatfield Friends of the Library

According to an article written in the February 1975 issue of "Library Occurrent", the Wheatfield Friends of the Library was formed in about 1972 to raise funds for a library in Wheatfield. Mrs. Vincent Hohner was the first president.

Permission was secured to use the one room school on the school grounds. Now money had to be raised to remodel the building. A public plea was issued and response was overwhelming, in a short time $1,652 was collected. A furnace, lighting, plumbing, paint and paneling was either donated or purchased by friends of the library. Many people and organizations volunteered to install the equipment and help clean, paint and get the building ready for use.

On February 2, 1973 the Wheatfield Branch Library opened.

The Friends of the Wheatfield Branch Public Library

The Friends of the Wheatfield Branch Public Library was organized in 1977 to help purchase items for the library. The first president was Mrs. Vincent Hohner.

Some of the articles the organization has purchased for the library include, drapes, an entryway, paperback rack, shrubbery, projector, cassette recorder and an outside bulletin board.

Joyce Bailey is the current president.

Cub Scouts

The Wheatfield Cub Scouts were organized in 1947. The Pack was chartered 160 in the Harrison Trails Council in Lafayette, Indiana. The Wheatfield Lions Club sponsored the Pack. Harry Nelson was the Institutional Representative. First Cub Master was Julian Fulaytar and May Fulaytar was the first den mother.

In 1983 the Cub Scouts are chartered with the Sagamore Council in Kokomo, Indiana, as Pack 3160. Paul A. Bailey is the current Cub Master. Edward Myers is the Webelo Leader. Present den mothers are Judy Millus and Jean Davis. American Legion Post 406 now sponsors the Cubs.



Wheatfield Cub Scout Pack 160 at Game Preserve in about 1947. Front row- Ray Sculley, Frank Jones, Jerry Grube and Charles Solomon. Middle row- Sonny Green, Don Fulaytar, Allen Stembel and Roger Sculley. Back row- Wilbur Sculley, Lloyd Solomon, Julian Fulaytar - Cub Master and Paul Grube.

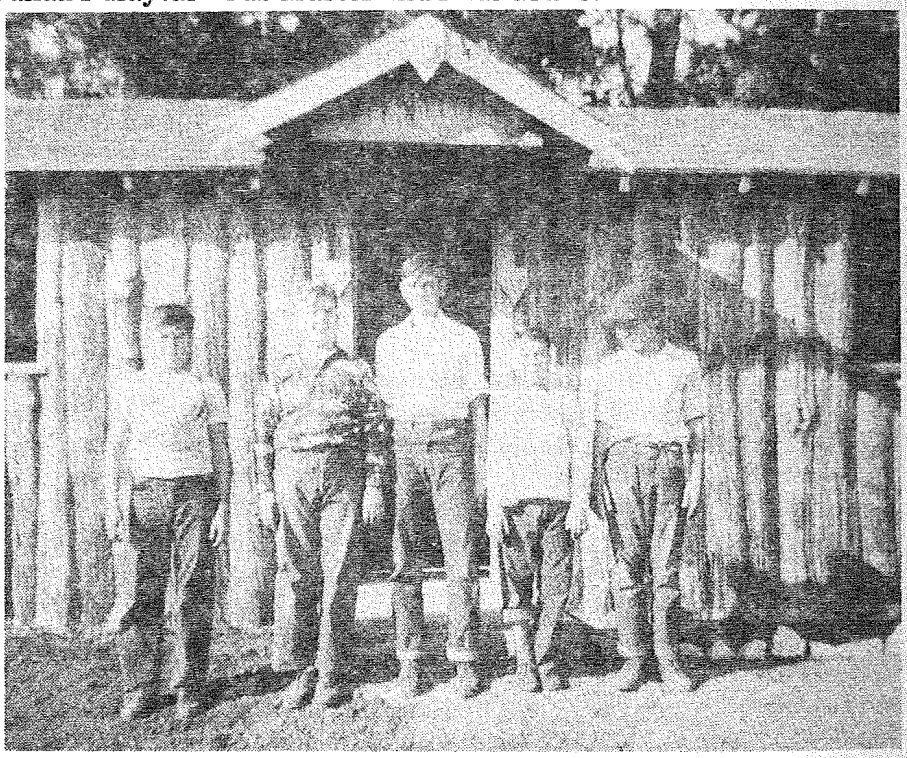
Boy Scouts

The Boy Scouts were first organized in Wheatfield June 1, 1944, by a group of citizens. Rev. Charles Morse was chairman of the group. The troop was chartered Troop 60 with the Harrison Trails Council in Lafayette, Indiana. Acting as Scout Master was Wayne Jones, with Omer Darner assistant. Committee chairman was Perry Foust. Arthur Blue and Gerald Rainford were members of the committee.

Eighteen boys were signed up that first year. Charter members were James Jones, James Mize, Daniel Darner, Ronald Foust, Fred Woodbrandt, James Schreiner, Derald Magers, Robert Garling, Robert Scott, Gerald Holbrook, Robert Theis, Roger Hoehn, Arnold Brown, Glen Roberts, Robert Koppers, Fred Ross, Melvin Zeiters, and Jack Fischer.

In 1947, the Wheatfield Lions Club sponsored the troop. Harry Nelson was the Institutional Representative. Lowell Woolever was Scout Master.

In 1949, a group of citizens built a cabin on the American Legion ground for the Boy Scouts to use. Those contributing the greatest efforts were Robert Kerns, Julian Fulaytar, Clifford (Bubbles) Kerns and Charles Lawyer.



Wheatfield Boy Scouts, Sonny Green, Donald Fulaytar, Delmar Zieters, Bill Holbrook and Hank Bays pictured in front of the boy scout cabin in 1950.

In 1972 the scouts were changed to Troop 160 and were chartered with the Sagamore Council in Kokomo, Indiana. American Legion Post 406 of Wheatfield sponsored the scouts.

In 1980 the scouts were re-organized with William Bailey, William Davis, John Snowden, Phillip Millus and Jack Moore as leaders. Under their leadership the cabin was remodeled in 1981. A new roof, insulation, windows, paneling and electricity were added.

In 1983 the leaders remain the same. American Legion Post 406 sponsors the troop.

Girl Scouts

The Wheatfield Girl Scouts were first started in Wheatfield in the early 1950's by Mrs. Ruth Madsen. They met in the basement of the First Baptist Church. Some of the first girl scouts were Penny Lawyer, Dolly Malone and Ruth Fulaytar. In the late 1950's some of the leaders of a "Lone Troop" were Mrs. Robert Theis, Mrs. Foster Myers, Mrs. William Inlow, Mrs. Harry Marshall and Mrs. Robert Tillema. In 1960 this tropp joined the Tippecanoe Council in Lafayette, Indiana. Later the council changed its name to Sycamore Council.

In 1983 the girl scouts have eight troops registered with Sycamore Council. They have five Brownie Troops, two Junior Girl Scout Troops and one Senior Troop. They also have one combined Cadet Troop with DeMotte. Paula Dusek is the town organizer for Wheatfield Girl Scouts.

Wheatfield Flood

The following article was taken from the March 12, 1908 issue of the Kankakee Valley Review.



Wheatfield Flood, March 1908.

On account of the recent heavy snow fall and a two days heavy rain the ditches were overflowed at this place and surrounding country and a deluge of water swept down upon the town last Friday morning, the water being so high as to flood the entire north half of town and many residents were compelled to move out of their homes or take up their quarters in the upper stories of their buildings, the water being so deep that boats were used in the streets. Sidewalks floated down toward the west part of town and at one time it was thought that the tracks of the C.,I. and S. would be washed out. The company sent a work train loaded with cinders and gravel and made dykes along the track to protect it.

The residents on Railroad Street seemed to get more than their share, as water in depth from a few inches to over a foot entered the first story of all buildings, except Squire Van Doozer's.

The only outlet for the water was at Main Street, near the Helmick and McGlinn hotels, and the street and railroad track were badly washed out at this point. Bridges were reported out on the different highways in the country and traffic is almost impossible. The oldest inhabitants state that the water was the highest in the history of the country. Billy Mac, Hank Misch and Jake Melser did good work with their boats in rendering assistance to those in the flooded districts.

Agriculture

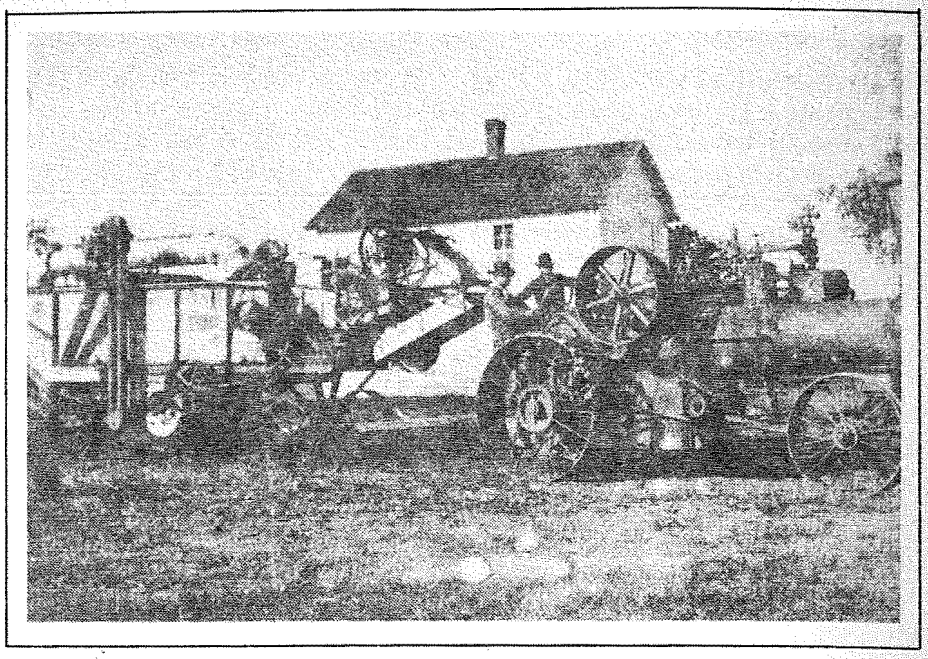
In the early years of American agriculture, men farmed to feed their families. Later, through better crops and equipment, the farmer was able to raise more that he could use. He sold the excess for cash.

Jasper County lies in the fertile corn belt of the midwest. After the Kankakee River and the area marshes were drained, the settlers moved in and farming became a big occupation. With the arrival of railroads the area farmers had easy access to the markets. Most of the farms in this area were operated by families and raised three major cash grains. They sold corn, wheat, and soybeans. Many also raised cattle and hogs to sell for market.

The wide range of wild grass afforded abundant pasture and hay. In 1883 Isaac Dunn from Kankakee Township shipped out 1200 to 1500 tons of wild hay for about $4.00 to $5.00 per ton.

The plows at this time were very crude. The sod was tough and unpredictable in producing a first crop. Wheat and corn proved to be the best crops. The first crop was generally planted by cutting a gash in the sod with an ax, dropping in the corn and closing it by another blow beside the first. Most of the time wheat had to be taken to Lafayette for milling into flour. In 1916 corn was taken to Chicago where the settlers sold it for 30 cents a bushel.

Another important business for farmers was the big local threshing rigs, separators and steam engines. The big threshing rigs began to disappear when farmers began to buy their own small separators and used farm tractors for power. In the 1930's combines slowly replaced all threshing rigs.



Engine and threshing machine, 1911.

The commercial growing of pickles and onions was also important to the area. Most of the area towns including Wheatfield had a pickle factory. Another crop which is very popular today is blueberries. There are several blueberry farms in the area. Luedtke, Passuello, and VanKley are the larger ones.

The mining of gravel began in the area around 1900. They flourished until about 1950. In smaller pits, the first gravel was removed by horses and scrapers. Later a machine with a continuous chain and paddles dragged the gravel from the pit. The larger pits used cranes for digging gravel.



Onion field located north of Wheatfield on CR 50W near 1300N, in the early 1900's.

Many people are interested in prices of products from long ago. In 1882 and 1883 corn was sold for 40 cents a bushel. Milk was sold for 28 cents a gallon. Butter was 25 cents a pound. From 1880 to 1886, wheat was selling anywhere between 60 to 80 cents a bushel. In the 1890's paid farm labor was about $23.50 a month.



John Clager harvesting corn, 1909.

In 1890, Goodyear Tire and Rubber Company sold a pair of horseshoes for $1.50. A two horse pulverising cultivator cost $22.00. A two year subscription to Farm Journal plus a book on Horse Secrets cost 50 cents. A harness for a team of work horses cost about $5.50. A buggy could cost $55, or higher, depending on how fancy the buggy was. Standard Oil Company made Eureka Harness oil. Studebaker Corporation of South Bend made buggies and farm wagons. Montgomery Ward and Co. sold a modest stove for $3.52. A more elaborate one could cost as much as $20.95.

In 1912, an oil tractor cost $700. A person could buy a Sears Model L car for $495. In 1920, he average value of all Kankakee River farm land was $102 per acre. In 1935 gas was about 18 cents a gallon. In 1939 farm labor was about 25 cents an hour. About 1946 corn ranged from $1.48 to $1.75 a bushel, soybeans ranged from $2.31 to $2.77.

With the end of World War II, came new and better equipment and better farming techniques. A man with a two-horse plow could turn the soil of 1½ acres in a day. With a tractor the farmer could turn much more. Agriculture in the 1980's is facing many changes and difficulties. Today's farmer is faced with low grain prices and high operating costs.

Sports

In the early 1900's baseball was a major sport to the young men of the area. Wheatfield was known far and wide for their baseball teams. The ball field was located at the east end of Grove Street, across State Road 49.



Wheatfield Pretty Boys baseball team about 1904. Back row- Miller, Landgon, Hendrickson, Remley, umpire, Anderson, Earl Darner, and Hurt. Front row- Tinkham, Lou Jensen, Tom Jensen and Pinter.

The Wheatfield teams played teams from South Bend, LaPorte, Valparaiso, Crown Point. St. Joseph Colege, North Judson and other surrounding areas. The visiting teams would often journey to Wheatfield on the trains and a large following often accompanied the visiting teams. Some of the local teams were the Pretty Boys, Wheatfield Regulars, Cubs, High School Team, Juniors, River Rats, Happy Greens, Mud Splashers, The Fats, The Leans, The Has Beens or the The Rooter Club. There were a total of 215 players in 1908.

TIn 1933, teams were still playing ball at the ball field located east of S.R. 49. In the 1940's there was a ball diamond on the north west corner of the present day Hoehn sub-division where games were held every Subday.

In 1971 the Lions Summer Baseball Teams were started uder the supervision of Eldon Jefferies, Ed Allyn, and William Davis. Later they were re-organized as the Wheatfield Summer League for the boys and girls of

the community. They are still active today.

In 1980 under the supervison of the Wheatfield Jaycees, the swamp area of the Wheatfield Legion grounds was filled in and formed into two softball fields. The Jaycees belong to a league comprised of ten teams from surrounding areas.

A YOUNG MAN'S DIARY OF 1904

(The following article is excerpts taken from the 1904-05 diary of Earl Darner. Darner was seventeen at the time he started his diary. He was raised by Edward and Maria Biggs, and grew up helping with the work on their farm.

Jan. 1, 1904 - This was a pleasant New Years. The temperature was normal and pleasant. Mr. Whittaker and myself hauled three loads of hay from the west field. Harmon Clark gave a public dance in Remley's Hall last night which ended at half past two. Day before yesterday there was a great panic in the Iriquios Theatre in Chicago caused by a stage fire which caused the death of 600 persons.

Jan. 3 - The thermometer recorded 18 degrees below zero this morning. I was not called until 6 o'clock. We all went back to school after a seven days vacation. I promised Mrs. Biggs that I would quit dancing and I shook hands on it some time ago, and didn't do it. Now when I say a thing, I generally do'er, and I didn't go through. So now I am going to study hard and try to teach next winter and quit dancing and study the Bible.

Jan. 17 - The baseball team was organized this afternoon. Ernest Hurt was chosen Capt., Tom Jensen as manager, and Ed Lidtke as treasurer. I attendted church in the evening. There was a good crowd present. The Box Social is now the rage.

Jan. 20 - I had four of my molar teeth filled today and all of them cleaned. The affair taxed me a sum of two dollars and a half, which, considering the present and the future for some months to come, is pulling quite hard on my pocket book.

Feb. 14 - Issac Greves fell from the stair steps last night at Dunville and came near killing himself. John Biggs' horse ran off this evening after church and broke the buggy considerable.

Feb. 26 - I received the rest of my examination grades and made a general average of 93. Goldie is quite sick this evening, her fever being at 105.

Mar. 25 - I hung the meat house full of meat and kept up a smoke all day.

Mar 26 - I got up at three o'clock and went hunting with Otto Miller. We went to Long Island in the Morris marsh. I got two wet feet, and the seat of my pants wet and the sick headache, but no ducks.

April 8 - Tommy Jensen received a letter from the manager of the Nebraska Indians Ball Team asking for negotiations on a game.

April 17 - The Pretty Boys won by 49 to 11.

April 21 - Mr. Kennedy's school closed today. The others are to close Saturday. The Car Barn Bandits are to hang in town tomorrow.

May 30 - Today is Memorial Day. This morning I hitched to the carriage and took some flowers to the cemetery and then met Goldie and Minnie at the depot.

June 16 - I did not work today but attended the commencement exercises. The graduates all spoke well and did not seem embarassed. In the evening Jack Smith and I, in the company of Bonnie and Bessie Biggs, attended the exercises of Kankakee Township at Dunville.

July 2 - This is Goldie's eighth birthday.

July 4 - This is Independence Day and was duly recognized by the people of Wheatfield and community. The Shelby Coronet Band arrived on the ten o'clock train and was accompanied by quite a number of citizens. A few selections rendered by Hon. George Williams completed the forenoon attractions. In the afternoon, the Juniors defeated Kersey in a game of ball by the score of 15 to 12. Tommy Jensen captured the foot race with ease and Ambrose Hendricks' son took the trotting race with "The Willow". Mr. Greve managed the dowery dance and I helped John Thorn as caller. In every manner the stands were well patronized. I took Nora Poisel home after the dance. The only occurance to mar the day was a fight which was soon stopped.

Aug. 6 - Today is my birthday anniversary. I celebrated it by working in the hayfield and calling for the dance in the Opera House this evening. We finished mowing and raking the last of forty acres today. It has taken us three day to do so.

Aug. 30 - I went to the Ripple Medicine Show this evening.

Sept. 6 - William Mason and I made a line and set a few posts on the new road fence north of town today. This evening I attended the Republican speaking and afterwards the Felger Bros. animal show.

Oct. 14 - I hauled a load of lumber from the Rhodes saw mill north of town and in the forenoon I helped plaster and clean a room in one of the houses on Railroad Street. I think that we can finish repairing the houses tomorrow.

Oct. 15 - We finished repairing the houses today and began building the sidewalks. Minnie Meyers came this evening. Laura Jensen and Bessie Biggs were here today and this evening.

Nov. 8 - Today is the state, national and county and township election day. Up to one o'clock, Roosevelt was said to be elected by an astounding majority. Indiana went Republican. Robert Mannan and Albert Keene were elected trustee and assessor of Wheatfield Township.

Nov. 19 - I attended the "Old Maid's Ball" at the Opera House this evening. It was quite good and all knew their parts well.

Nov. 24 - Thanksgiving. I tried to finish husking corn today but could not. I called for the M.W. of A. dance this evening.

Jan. 29, 1905 - I went to Sunday school this morning. A number of men visited Mr. Darrigan and informed him that they had decided to limit his residence in Wheatfield to twenty four hours. It is rumored that he has complied with the request.

Feb. 26 - Mr. and Mrs. Biggs and Goldie attended the wedding of Robert Mannan and Annie Greve this evening.

Mar. 4 - This afternoon I strung the meat and hung it in preparatory to smoking. The Peerless Orchestra of Kouts gave a dance this evening.

June 24 - Members of the "Flying Rollers" of Benton Harbor held religious services on the public square this evening.

June 29 - The lady on Mrs. Joe Austin's place attempted suicide this morning by taking carbolic acid.

July 16 - While trying to "jimy" the Excursion this evening, Ernest Weaver had his right hand cut off by the cars. I happened to be standing near him when he made the attempt.

Nov. 14 - Mr. Grover Smith brought Harry and Clara Gilbransen and I to Valparaiso today. Mr. Biggs is dangerously ill. He having taken sick last Wednesday evening. We are installed in our new quarters and part of our classes arranged. (Mr. Darner went to Valparaiso to attend Valparaiso University to become a teacher.)

Nov. 18 - I received a telegram this afternoon saying that Mr. Biggs died this morning about seven o'clock.

Nov. 20 - I came back from Jasper this afternoon about 3 o'clock. Martin Jensen brought me as far as Five Points. I went down on a wheel yesterday, but was too late for the funeral.Some say that it was the largest funeral ever seen in Wheatfield.

(Editor's Note: Portions of Mr. Darner's diary were submitted by his granddaughter, Mrs. Carol Hein of Wheatfield. A note she attached read: After reading my Grandfather's diary, begun when he was seventeen, a vivid picture of community life in a rural area emerged. Although farm work consumed most of the spring, summer and fall days, the evenings and weekends were full of entertainment of some sort. Dances given by individuals or organizations, box socials, baseball games, and even football games were attended by many. The winters of 1904 and 1905 were extremely harsh ones, but there were lodge meetings, church events and traveling shows at the Opera House to occupy the evenings. School was important, but often farm work took precidence, at least to a young man who was helping to run a farm.World events and local elections were taken very seriously. It seems, after reading this diary, to have been a good time to be a young man growing up in Wheatfield.)

Life Along the Kankakee

The following stories were condensed from articles appearing in the Vidette-Messenger on August 10, 1967 through August 17, 1967.

The articles were written by James Jones as told by Jack Wickline, retired hunter and trapper. Both were residents of Wheatfield. The stories are about life along the Kankakee River in the early 1900's.

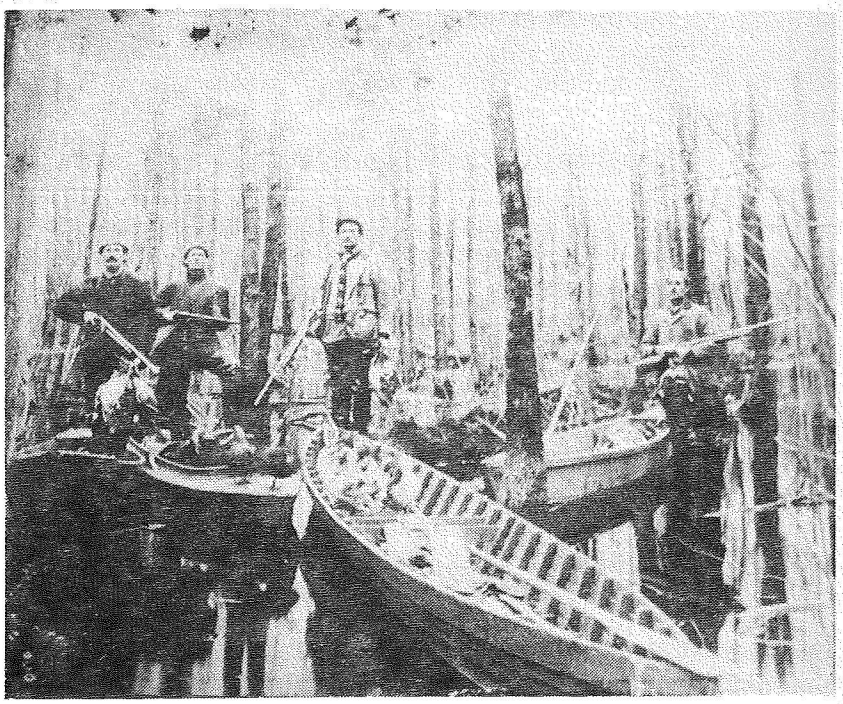
Game Abundant Along Kankakee

Jack Wickline, a friend of James Jones, was a hunter and trapper for many years on the Old Kankakee river and marsh. This was his home where he made his living until the drainage of the river was started in 1916. Jack described life on the river before and after it was straightened. "Wild game was in abundance everywhere. There were hunters that came from other states to hunt the marsh, and even some from foreign countries. Today if the sportsman came this way again, he would never recognize any part of this area because the marsh is no more. As the old marsh and river went so did the hearts of every hunter. This wild kingdom soon passed away, never to be again."

Jack Wickline was born in the Allegheny Mountains of Pennsylvania, near Pittsburgh, on October 25, 1889. Jack with his parents decided to move west. When they had gone as far as Linton, Indiana, Jack's parents liked the area and decided to make their home in Indiana. It was here that Jack first learned of the great Kankakee River and marsh. He heard it was a hunter's paradise and decided to go there to see for himself since he loved to hunt. He went to LaPorte, Indiana; and from there he went east to the Mud Lake area. It was

spring and the old River and marsh were alive with thousands of ducks and geese building nests in the marsh areas. Muskrat houses were just a few feet apart, every hill was crowded with Sand Hill cranes.

While Jack was there he met and made friends with a Cherokee Indian by the name of Frank Sater. Together they built a cabin in the marshes. It wasn't a fancy cabin. Just big enough for two men, a few furnishings, and supplies such as coffee and flour. In the summer, both men liked to fish for carp. Frank and Jack would throw the spears in the boat and head down the river to an opening into the marsh area. It was spawning time, fish were flopping and churning the water everywhere you looked. "Neither man liked the taste of carp, so they fixed the fish like this: Clean the fish and stuff with chopped up sassafras roots, bake 90 minutes, throw the carp away and eat the roots." It was a common site to see boat loads of fish passing by every day.



Hunters coming off the Kankakee Marsh in 1909 with their catch. Second from left is Joe O'Connor.



Shown are Dick Morehouse and Jess Smith with their "catch" in 1912. They trapped in the Kankakee Marsh before the river was dredged. Pictured are 1400 muskrats, eight raccoons, ten mink and eight opossum hides.

"The river, marsh, and woods were their living. Jack understood why the Indians had no lack of food. He doubted very little if there ever was a greater hunting area in the world. The marsh extended from Mud Lake to Momence, Illinois." "The river wasn't wide but very deep in places. It was a mean Old River. It claimed the lives of many men. Yes, the Old River holds many secrets that will never be told."

Buyers Of Fur Not So Honest

Fall is a very exciting time around the Old River marshes. Ducks and geese take to the air by the thousands. "When the first chill comes, so do the hunters. Blinds are set up everywhere. Some hunters killed for food and others were market hunters. When the shooting started you could smell gun powder from daylight to dark. The old marsh would ring with gun shots."

Frank and Jack did a lot of fur trapping. Together they would set about 70 traps. In one night's time Jack caught 55 muskrats, 3 mink and 3 raccoons. Fur was a good price in those days. Muskrats hides ranged from 3 cents to 15 cents a piece. Minks were as high as $3.50, and raccoon for $1.50. Good skunks brought $2.25 a piece. Traps were $1.50 a dozen, fur boards were selling at 60 cents a dozen.

"Hunting never really came to an end. When the geese and ducks were gone, a person could hunt rabbit, quail, and prairie chickens. They were thick, you could shoot all you could carry in an hour." After the animals were cleaned, they were hung up in the trees to freeze. Just before dark the carcasses were taken down, otherwise the fox and wolf would steal them.

Kankakee River Crooked As Snake

One spring day in May 1915, Jack and his friends decided to go to Missouri by boat. Their plan was to go down the Kankakee to the Illinois River toward the great Mississippi. "It was quite a feeling to know that LaSalle and his men took this same route on his expedition and the Potawatami had fished and hunted the same old River for centuries."

"The Kankakee was as crooked as a snake. You couldn't see too far ahead for the bends and curves, but every foot of it had wild life. There were ducks, muskrats, fish, turtles, brown herons, and other wildlife on her banks. The trees that lined the river banks were full of music. It was nesting time for most birds. At night you would hear the great horned owls hooting up and down the river, and little screech owls with their eerie cry, and the long clear howl of the timber wolf. Frogs would sing all night long. All this made life worth while on the Old River."

Take Trip Along Kankakee River

The Old River was dangerous - it had many whirlpools and logs. These were things you needed to watch for, otherwise you could find yourself and your load dumped in the river. Most of it you couldn't recover. There were many small springs along the river banks that flowed clear and cool.

Jack and his friends stayed awhile at a place along the river called Burrough's Camp near Dunns Bridge. It was sort of a resort for fishermen who came from Chicago, South Bend, and St. Joseph. The trips were made by trains, passengers getting off at Tefft, (once called Dunnsville), two miles south of Burrough's Camp. This was a beautiful camp. Jack and his friends decided to cancel the rest of their trip. Instead they found an ideal spot a mile and a half west of Burrough's Camp. It was called Swamp Gate. They decided to make this their new home and built themselves a cabin.

Fall Beautiful Along The Kankakee

"Summer came to a blazing close along the Kankakee River. Days became quite cool and nights clear and frosty. Mother Nature was painting the marsh with beautiful colors. Flocks of birds were gathering for the long trip south. Muskrats carried roots to store up for the winter, squirrels gathered nuts to fill hollow trees. Hunters returned to the marsh to set traps and built blinds to get ready for the big hunt. Nothing in the world was as great as drifting on the Old River taking rats, mink, coon, and skunk out of your traps."

Jack kept his fur till he had about a $100's worth or more. Then Jack and Frank would load their boats and went to Burrough's Camp. After hides were sold, they bought supplies for camp and some Kickapoo juice because water was scarce. It was here that Jack learned that a new river was to be dug. The contractor was to start early in the Spring of 1916. The Old Marsh was to be drained, the new channel was to be 100 feet wide and very deep.

New Bed Dug For Kankakee

Protests were made by many groups, especially hunters and trappers. Nothing worked to halt the plans. The Old River had to go. In the spring of 1916 there was a floater being built down the river near Baum's Bridge. The contractor was to start there and dig east to the Starke County Line. The floater was a huge machine built by the Marion Dredge Company, owner and operated by the McWilliam Dredge Company of Chicago. There were many contractors, and each had so many miles to dig. Upon completion of their contracts the old floaters were stripped of most of the machinery and the rest was left to rot away.

The dredges were rapidly putting the death sentence to the old marsh, great areas began to dry up and people started buying the land to farm. Corn, oats, and wheat took the place of muskrat, mink, coon, skunk and opossum. Farming had taken over, thus ending one of the world's greatest hunting and fishing areas that ever was created.

Wheatfield Homemaker's Club

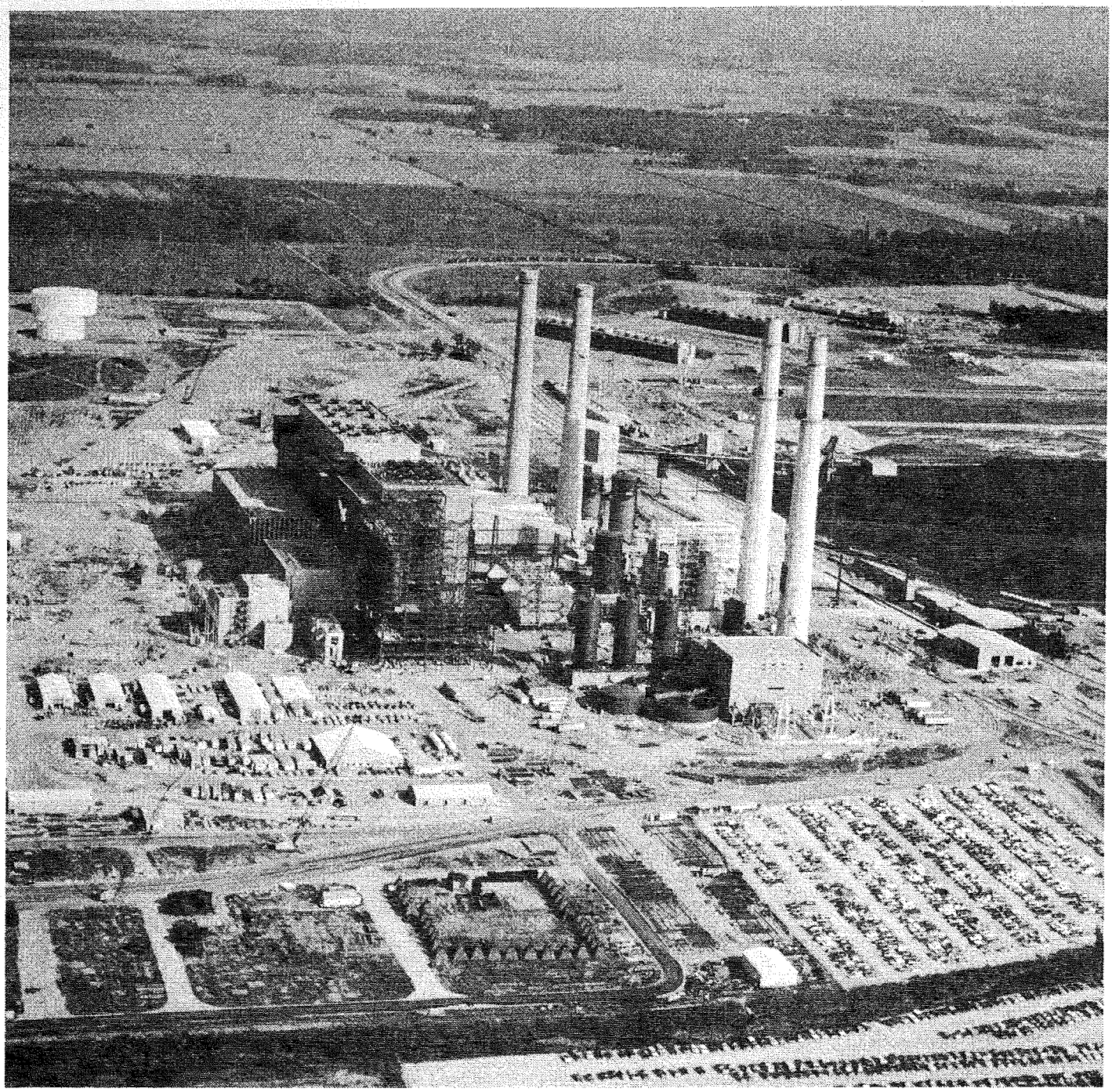
Earliest records of the Wheatfield Homemaker's Club are not available. Records do show that in 1923, Mrs. Joe Hilliard, Mrs. Will Wills, and Mrs. Tom Sayers traveled to Rensselaer to attend lessons at the extension homemakers. The ladies traveled in unheated cars with side curtains flying in the breeze.

The group was active in 1943 with Mrs. Paul Baughman serving as president. Officers in 1949 were Mrs. Harry Beck - president, Mrs. Goldie Grube - vice president, and Mrs. Irene Haring - secretary and treasurer.

The main purpose of the club is learning skills in home making, sewing, foods, human relations, child rearing and money management. The club is open to any lady who would care to join.

Officers in 1983 are Trudy Bales - president, Mary Buiter - vice president, and Kathy Bierma - secretary and treasurer.

Industry In the Area



SCHAHFER GENERATING SITE

The Schahfer Generating Station, a base load generating complex was named after Rollin M. Schahfer, a director and Vice President for NIPSCO at the time of his death in 1968. Initial construction on the site occurred in 1972. The site is in Jasper County, near the Kankakee River, and covers 4,200 acres. The main building complex is located 2 miles north of Wheatfield and one mile east of State Road 49. Unit 14, which was completed December 31, 1976, and Unit 15, completed October 31, 1979, are coal fired Units. Both burn low sulfur Western coal. Units 16A and 16B are oil fired combustion turbine peaking Units and went on line December 31, 1979. Two additional coal fired units are under construction here, with one unit set to come on line in June 1983, and the second has a scheduled in service date of 1986. During construction, which began in 1980, this project provided approximately 1,950 jobs and utilized more than 32,000 tons of American made steel. The new Units boilers will burn approximately 1.5 million tons of Midwest Coal annually.

Present businesses in Wheatfield are:

Bierma Hardware
Nick Bierma

C. Bierma Implement Co.
Edwin Bierma

Robbins T.V.
Ivan Robbins

Stowers & Son Market
Louis D. and Louis M. Stowers

Wheatfield Feed Mill
Ollie & Janet Wireman

Garling's Laundry
Mary H. Garling

School House Inn
Rosa Darner

Original Gaslight Bakery
Joseph Slawnikowski

R & B Liquors
Robert Randle

Cargill Inc. Elevator
Manager, Paul Hewitt

Barber Shop
Leon Kellner

Garling's Trailer Court
Mary Garling

Wheatfield Beauty Cottage
Jan Barger

Wheatfield Wheels
Milton DeVries Jr.

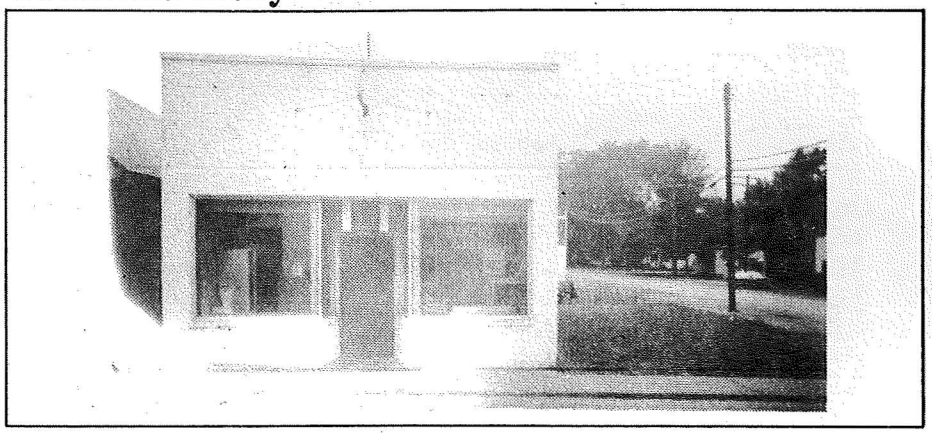
Don Hoehn Petroleum Co.
Don Hoehn

Rex Myers Construction
Rex Myers

LaPatkins Proud Chick Inn
Alex and Blanche LaPatkin

State Bank of Rensselaer
Wheatfield Branch
Doris Hockett, Manager

Wheatfield Today



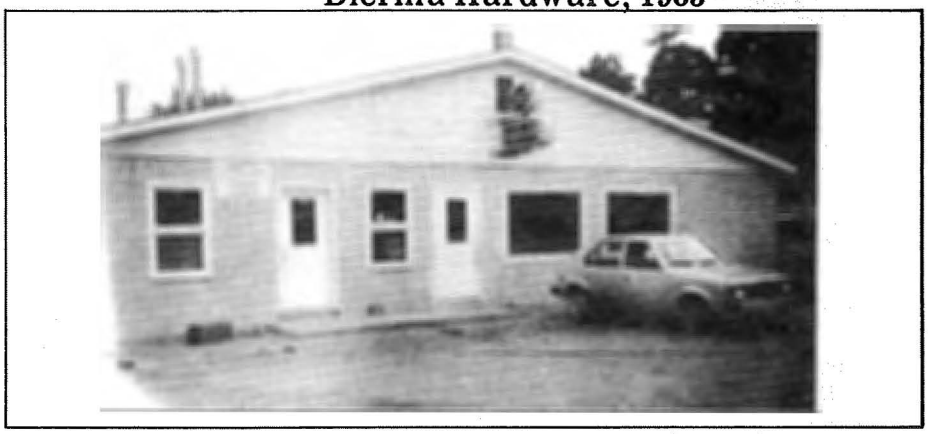
Original Gaslight Bakery, 1983



Stowers & Son Market, 1983



Bierma Hardware, 1983



Garling's Laundry, 1983

Sohigro Service Co.
Charles Schoon, Manager

Millie's Beauty Salon
Millie Wireman

One Stop Inc.
William R. Peterson

Gas Stop
Fay Bell

Central Garage (General Repairs)
Nick Tillema

Wheatfield Tavern
Raymond L. Risner (Buddy)

Schultz's Sportsman-Inn
Amos Schultz

Lefty's Standard Station
Richard Ferguson

Mike's Texaco
Mike Engels

BTS Shell
Bob Sculley

Pam's Needle in a Haystack
Pam Stalbaum

Granny's Gift Shop
Audrey Veden

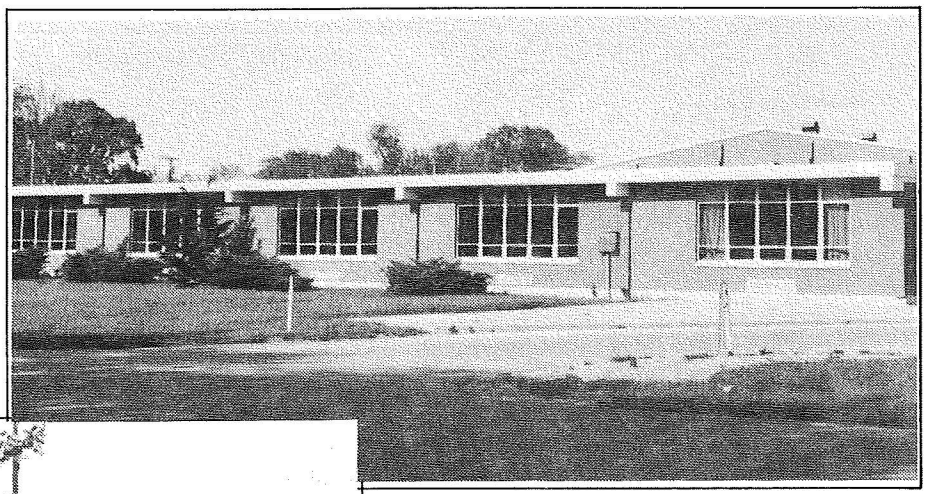
The Place Arcade



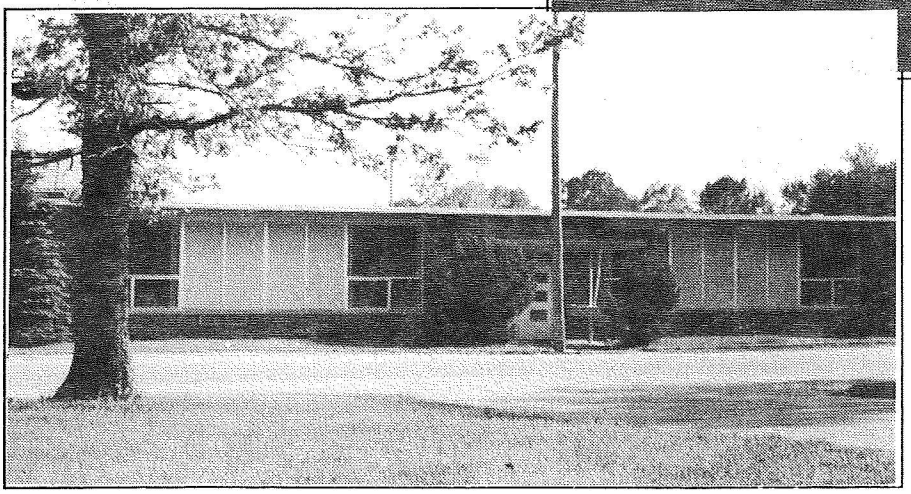
Wheatfield Town Hall Fire Department, 1983



State Bank of Rensselaer Wheatfield Branch, 1983

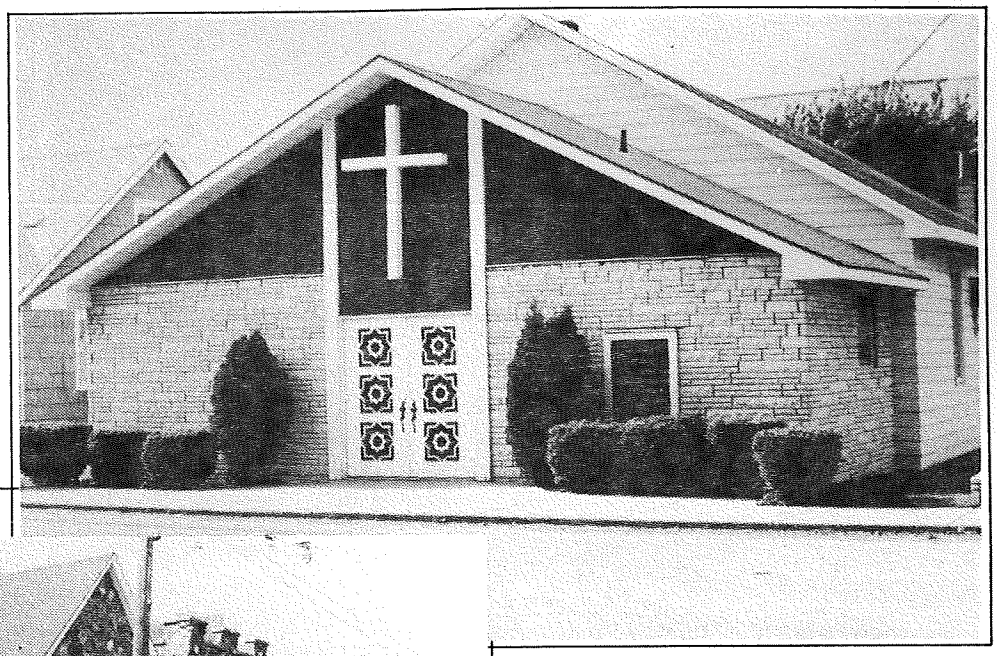


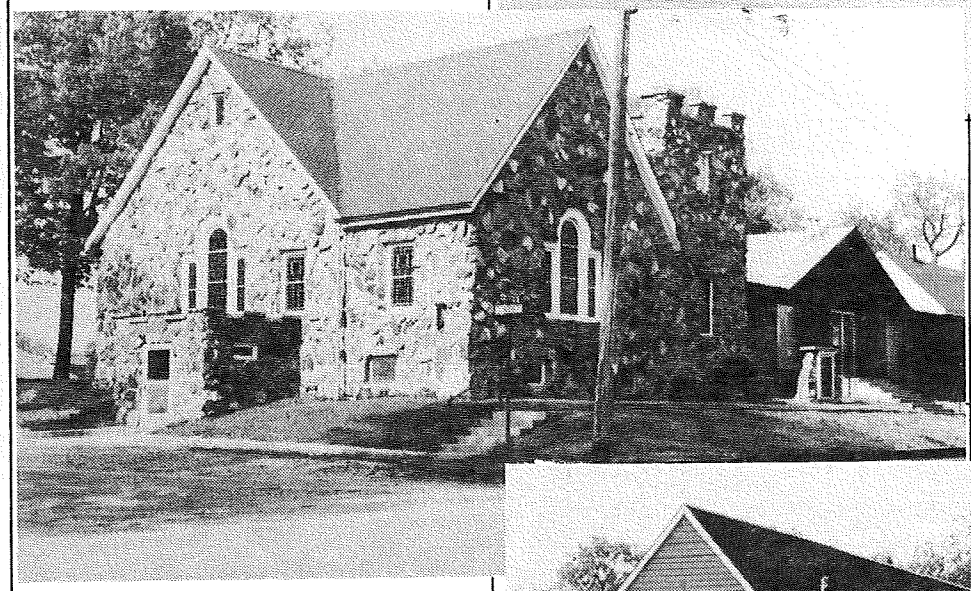
Wheatfield Elementary School
West side, 1983



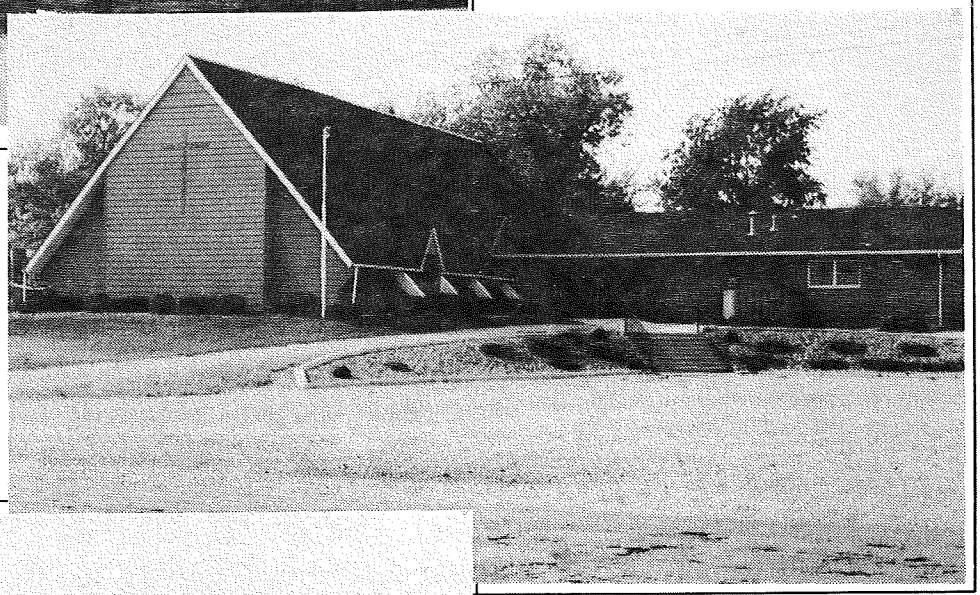
Wheatfield Elementary School
North view, 1983

Full Gospel
Tabernacle
1983

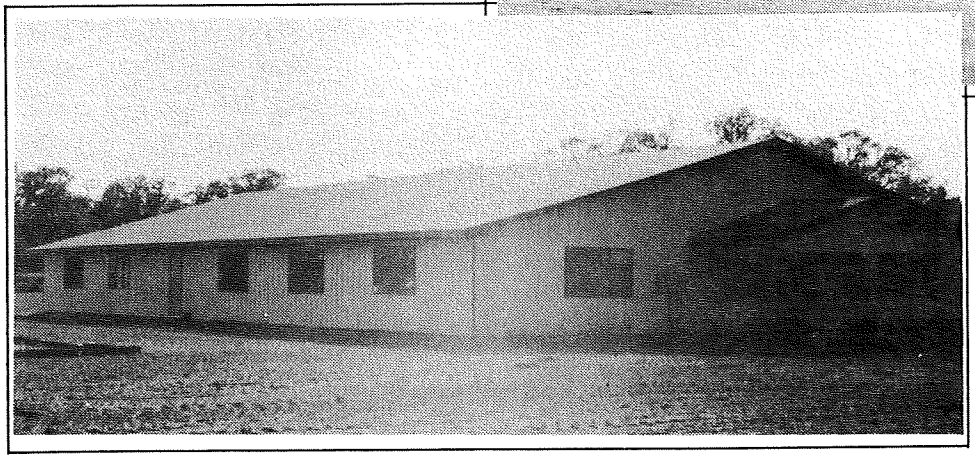




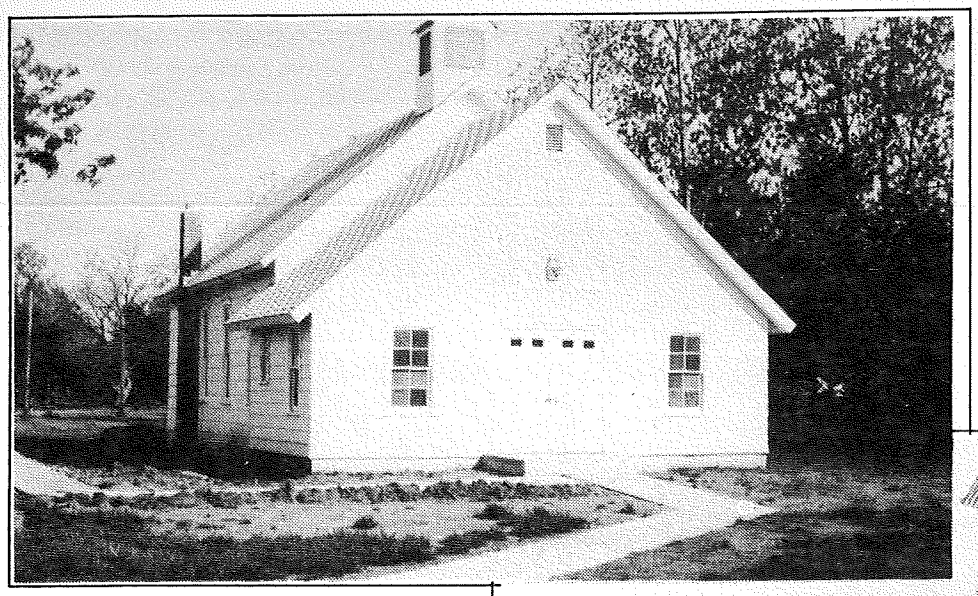
First Baptist
Church
1983



Pentecostal
Church of God
1983

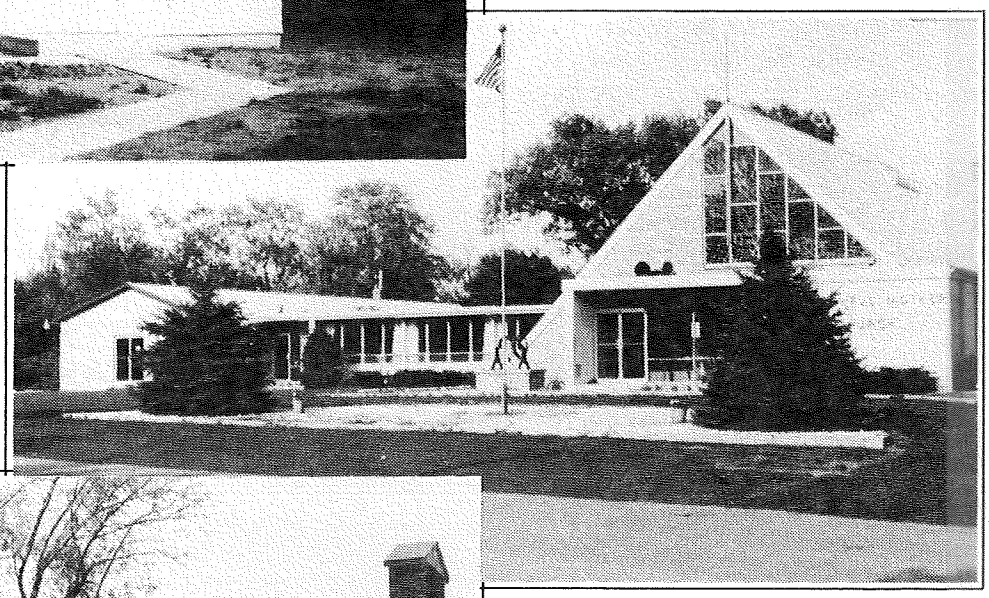


Calvary Evangelical
Free Church
1983



Chapel
Christian Haven Home
1983

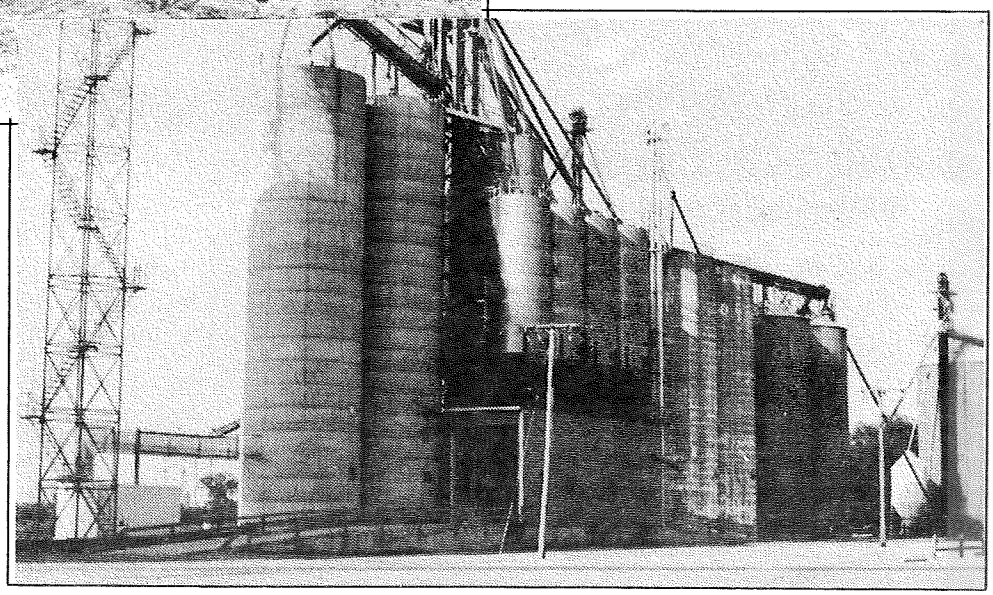
This building was the former Wheatfield Church of Christ and was donated to Christian Haven Home in March 1983.



Sorrowful Mother
Catholic Church
1983



Church of Christ
1983



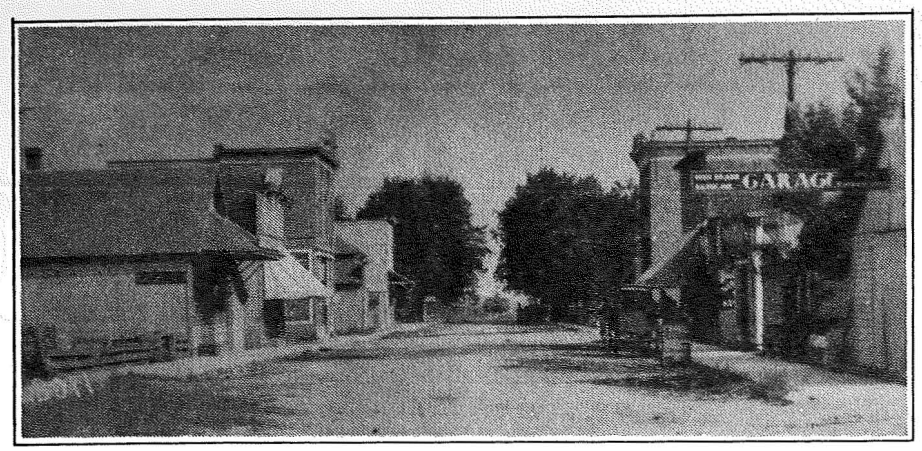
Cargill Elevator
1983



Looking north on Main Street 1909.



Looking west of Byron (Grove) Street, about 1902. Pictured are general store, millinery, restaurant, opera house, harness shop and Barlow's Hardware.



Looking north on Main Street about 1910.

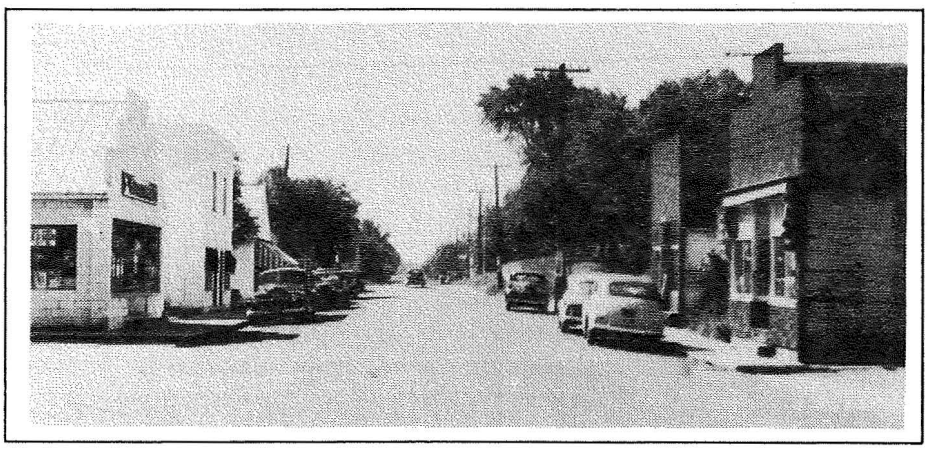
Looking west on Byron (Grove) Street about 1911.





Looking south on Main Street about 1923.

Looking south on Main Street in 1940's.





Looking north on Main Street, 1910.



Angeline Kerns in front of her home where they sold Stark trees.



Stembel Elevator, located where Cargill Elevator is presently located.



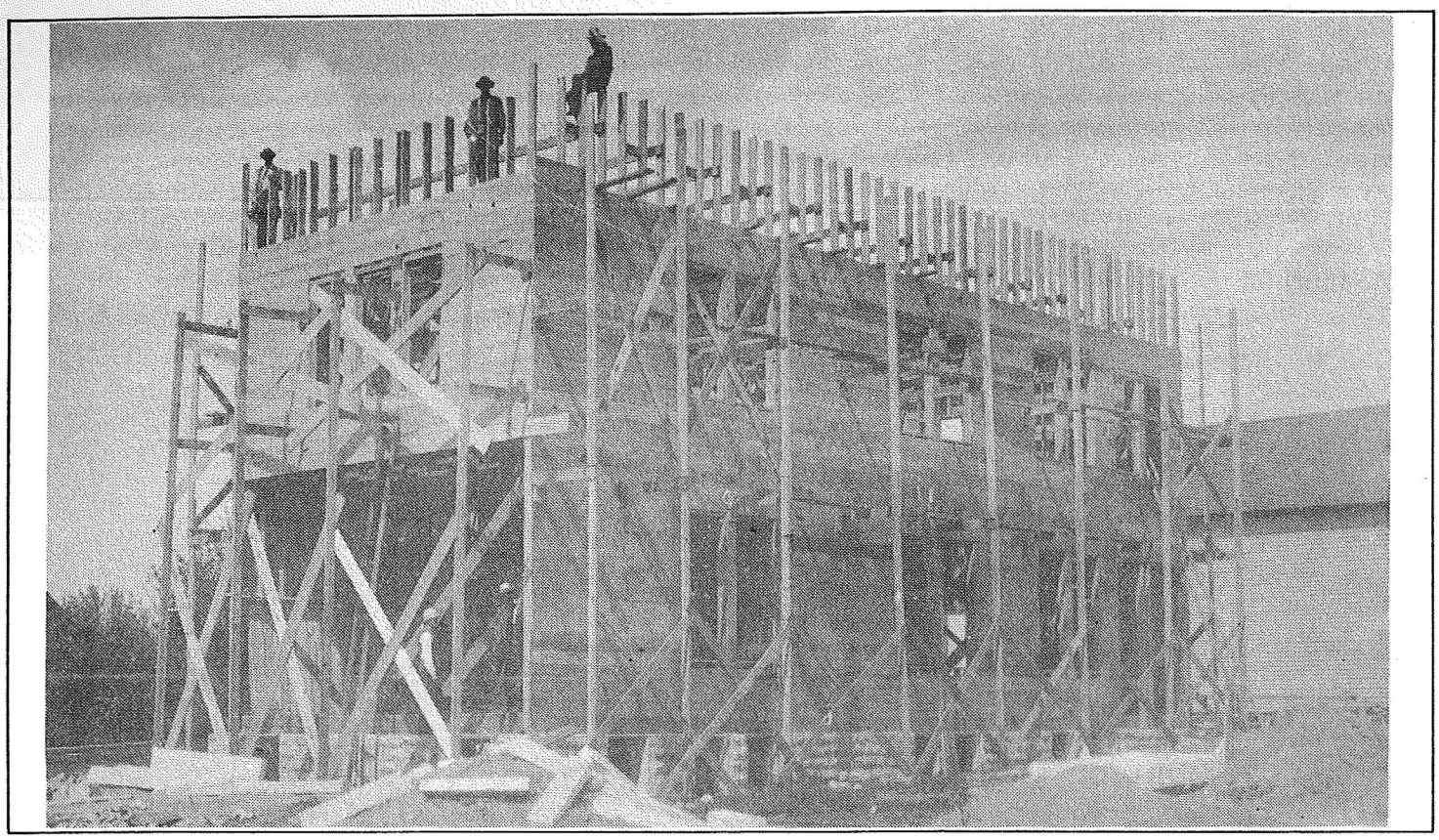
Hay convoy, about 1912-1915. Pictured are Kenneth Gibbs, Charley Marine and William McNeil.



John Clager with his team of horses and load of hay.



Harry E. Neier with his team of horses, about 1912.



First bank of Wheatfield under construction about 1900.



First wire fencing in the area. John O'Connor was the general agent. Last man on the fence is Joe O'Connor.



Blacktopping Wheatfield's Main Street, with the "old steam roller" in the background. Pictured are from left: Bert Robbins, Kenneth Davidson, Curt Steele, Ross Ramey, Jim Lloyd, unknown, Ben Woolbrandt, unknown, Maury Stumpe, Hank Keene, John Hight, Bob Kerns, unknown, Bert Vandercar, and Tom Myers.



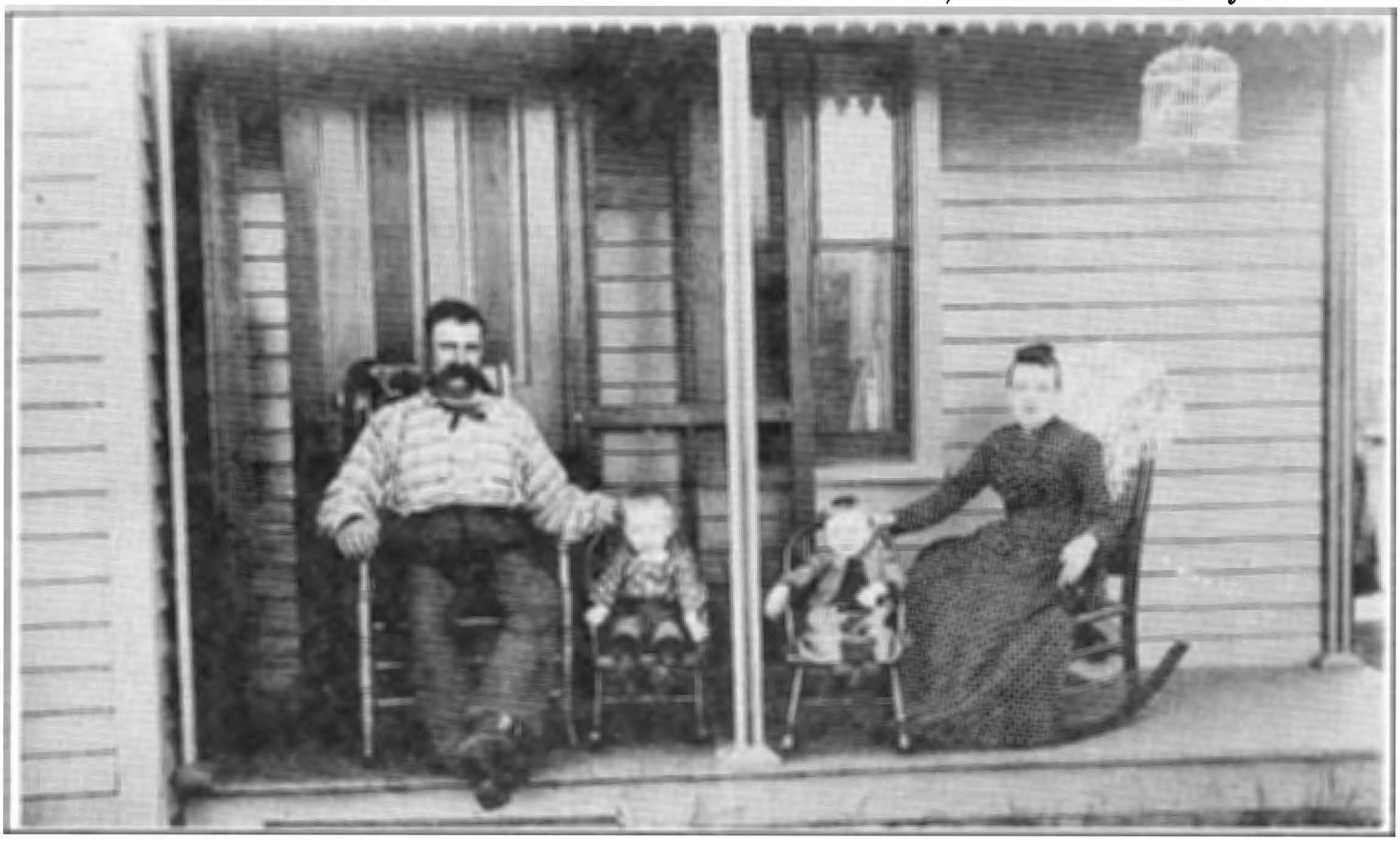
Modern Auto of the times in 1906, in front of Myers & Myers Department Store.



Marcia Dina



Russel Brown, Fern Brown and Clyde Brown



Left to right, George O. Stembel, sons Albert and Oscar and his wife Sarah E. about 1892.



Mrs. Minerva Swisher.



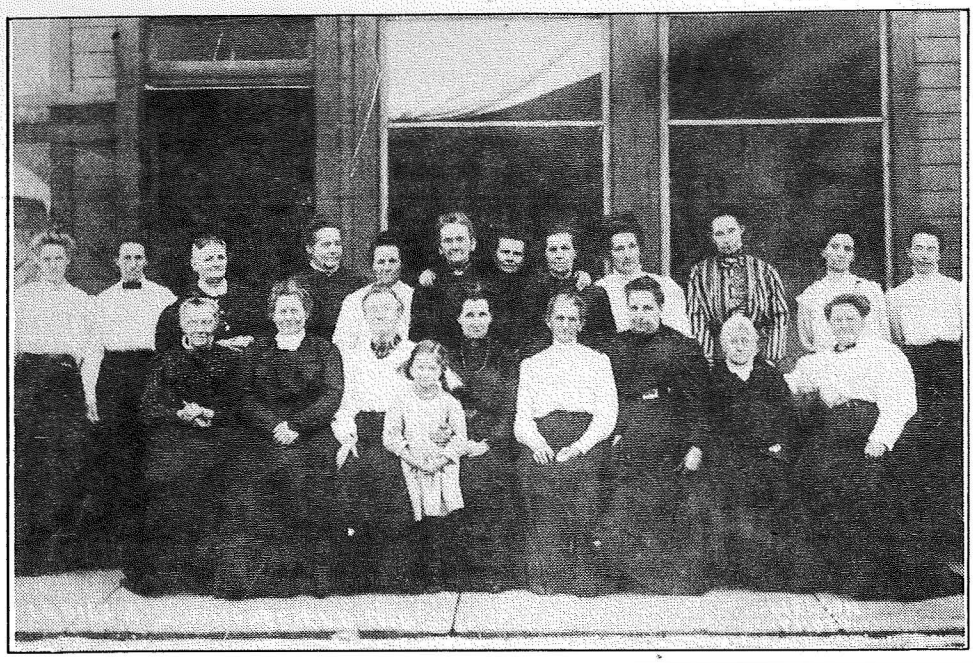
The Fendig family in their dining room, Simon, his wife, his mother and his son Allen.



Phillip Kerns and Dan Snyder.



Ada and Clara Huber, Lou Grube and George Hiel, 1903.



Ladies Aid Society of the Methodist Episcopal Church about 1909. Pictured are: Back row-Mrs. Minor, Mrs. Lafayette Langdon, Mrs. Alfonso Rockwell, unknown, unknown, Mrs. East, Mrs. Nelson, Mrs. Engelbret Jensen, unknown, Mrs. Minnie Myers, Katie Tinkam, Mrs. Zelma Remley. Front row- Mrs. Helmich, Mrs. Gregory, Mrs. Scott, Ota Nelson (little girl), Mrs. McNeil, unknown, Mrs. Maria Biggs, Mrs. Van Dusen and Minerva Swisher.

Ladies Aid Society of the Methodist Episcopal Church about 1918. Pictured are: Front row-Mrs. Anderson, Mrs. Danke, Mrs. Emerick, Rev. Emerick, Mrs. Scott, Lennie Hendrickson. Back row- Emma Biggs, Minerva Swisher, Mrs. Wagner, Mrs. Geffert, Mrs. Maria Biggs and Mrs. Smith.





A group of ladies from the Baptist Church picked up corn to raise funds to furnish their church kitchen in the early 1950's. Pictured are front row: Berta Foust, Goldie Grube, Lula Caldwell and Carrie Myers. Back row are Frank Grube and Ethel O'Connor.



Wheatfield High School about 1908, Miss Jasperson, teacher.



Leslie Duggleby standing in front of school bus, 1930.



Riverside School. Front row from left, John Cooper, Bert Vandercar, Edgar Hines, Lonnie Bennett, John Morehouse. Middle row: Rose Grube, Nelda Cooper, Emma Hines, Albert Scholler, Ellen Heil or Collin, Zelma Clark, May Hines, Mildred Grube, Agnes Cooper, May Bennett, Back row: Arizona Custard teacher, William Tilton, Doris Bennett, Imogene Mutchler, Bradshaw, Charles Bancroft, Hazel Cooper, Margaret Grube and Pearl Wiseman.

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The men and women at NIPSCO congratulate the citizens of Wheatfield on their Centennial Celebration. We look forward to a future of even greater progress.

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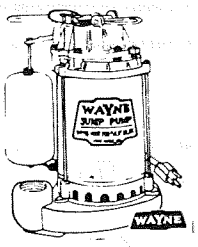
Bierma Hardware

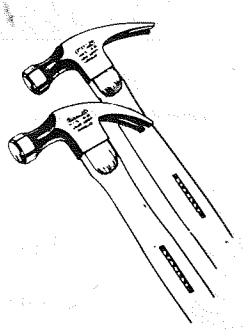
HARDWARE - APPLIANCES

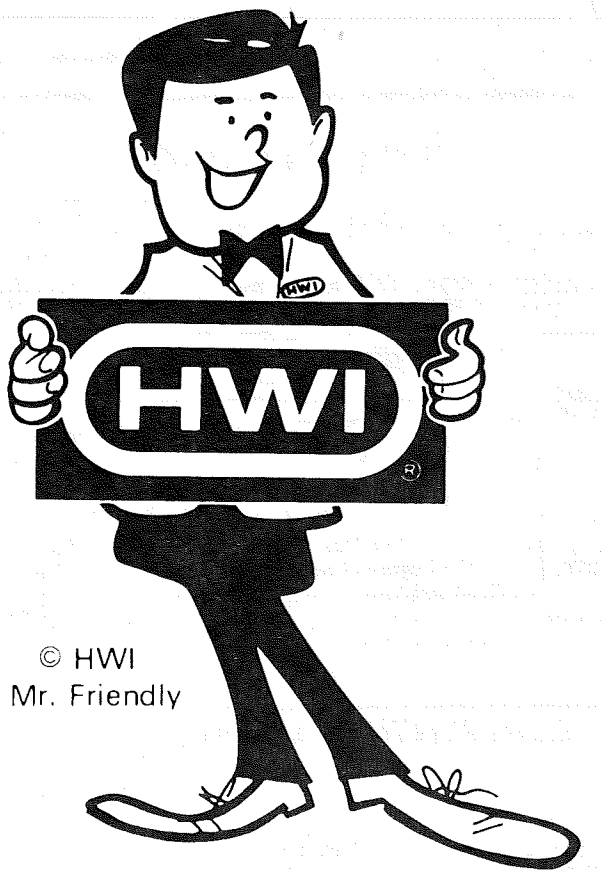
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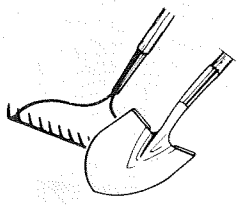
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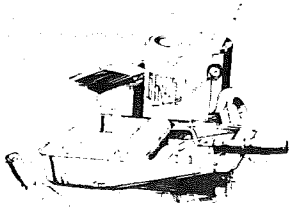






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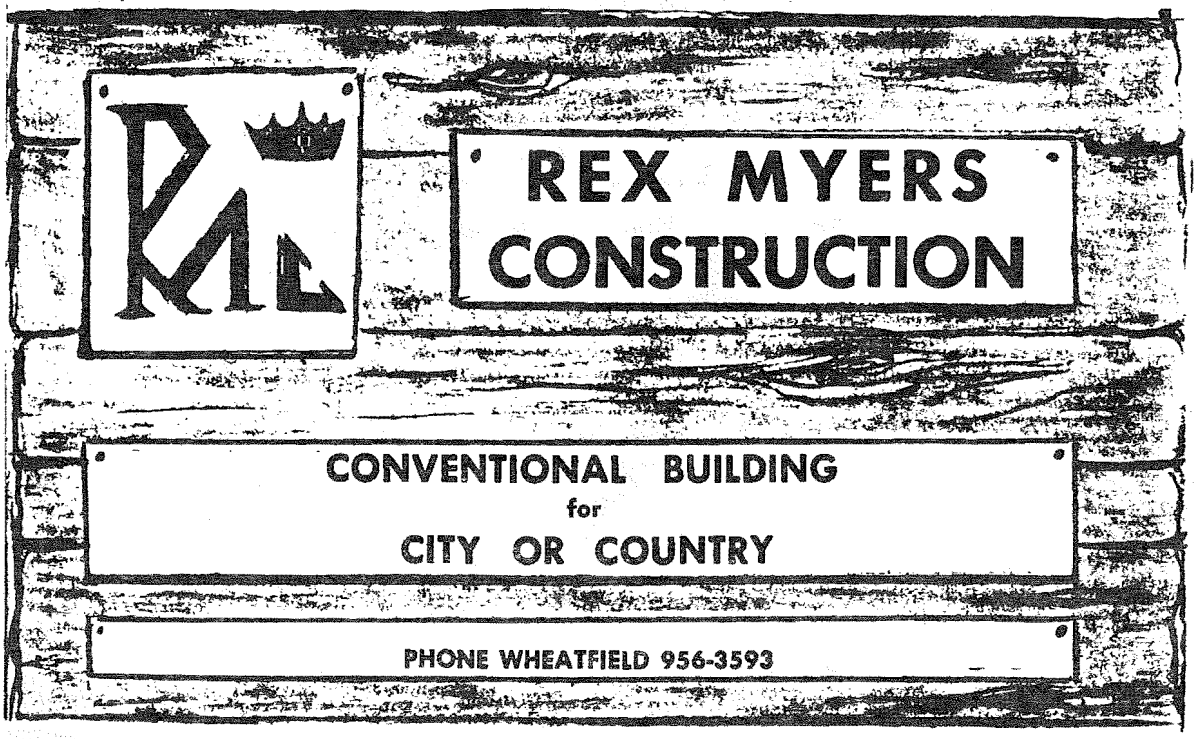
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7 MI. WEST OF RTE. 421

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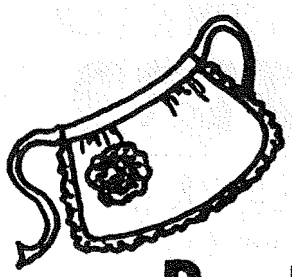
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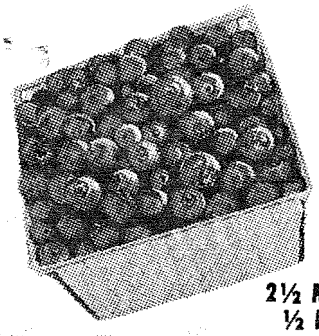
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225. Washington
Rensselaer, IN 47978
Ph. 866-5941

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P.O. Box 49
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OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK

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Ricker's TaeKwonDo Center

Located ½ mile S. of 10 on Hwy. 49
at Oakwood Gun Club, Wheatfield, In.
Instructor: Randy L. Ricker
2nd Degree Black Belt
Phone...987-3477



Ricker's Karate Academy

Iroquois Lodge Building, Rensselaer, In.
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Instructor: Paul D. Ricker
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Phone...866-5037

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2 miles north of Wheatfield on 49
THEN ½ mile east on 1400N

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Garling's Laundry
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WE WISH TO CONGRATULATE THE TOWN OF WHEATFIELD ON ITS 100th ANNIVERSARY!

MILBURN AND LOIS RICKER AND FAMILY

Carl and Noot Tommy and Danny
Randy and Maggie Ryan and Rachelle
Darrell and Kendall .. Daryl Lee and Stacey
David and Marcia"H and J"

Compliments of
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DARYL M. LINTER
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Jasper County Public Library

Rensselaer Public Library, Headquarters
Van Rensselaer & Angelica Street
Rensselaer, Indiana 47879
Phone 219-866-5881

Wheatfield Branch
Wheatfield, Indiana 46392
Phone 219-956-3774

DeMotte Branch
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SINCERE BEST WISHES TO THE PEOPLE OF WHEATFIELD DURING YOUR CENTENNIAL!

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OFFICE OF
DARWIN R. WHITED
BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Town of Wheatfield

POST OFFICE BOX 176
WHEATFIELD, INDIANA 46392

PHONE
AREA 219
956-3395

Congratulations and best wishes to the Wheatfield Historical Society and the Citizens of Wheatfield on the 100th Anniversary Celebration of the platting of the Town of Wheatfield.

Darwin R. Whited, President
Wheatfield Town Board

Congratulations Wheatfield on your 100th Birthday

Compliments of Judge Paul A. Bailey and Family





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FMC

FMC's flue gas desulfurization systems are provided by the Air Quality Control Operation (AQC). AQC maintains its own extensive staff of professionals to engineer, procure, erect and start up the systems. AQC also routinely utilizes the expertise available from within the entire corporation to assist in system design and development.

FMC Corporation, headquartered in Chicago, is a major producer of machinery and chemicals for industry and agriculture, and is one of the one hundred largest industrial companies in the U.S. Worldwide, the company has more than 40,000 employees located in 137 manufacturing facilities in 29 states and 15 foreign countries.

We have presently installed the FGD System on Unit 17 at the R.M. Schahfer Generating Station. In the near future, we will be installing the FGD System for NIPSCO's Unit 18.

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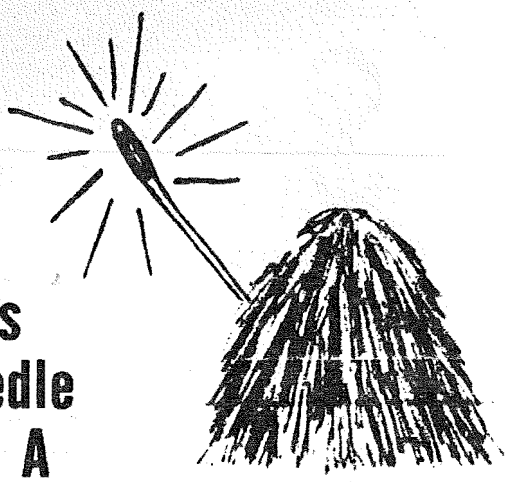
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SCULLEY SQUARE PLAZA PHONE 956-3992 WHEATFIELD, IND.

Wheatfield	956-3992
DeMotte	987-2971
DeMotte	987-2155
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MECHANICAL CONTRACTORS

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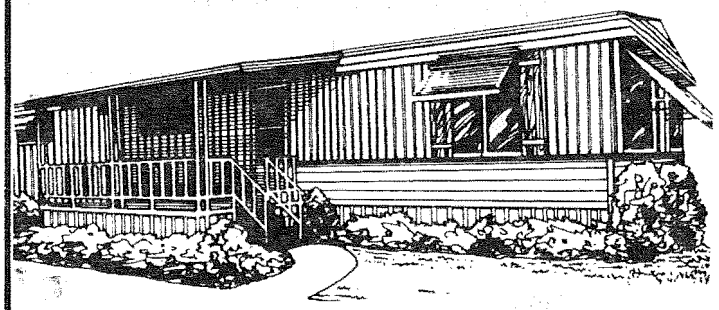
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Grove St. - Wheatfield, IN

Compliments of

MARY A. GARLING



GARLING TRAILER PARK

Wheatfield

Congratulations Wheatfield

The Wheatfield Historical Society is proud to be a part of the

Centennial Celebration of the town of Wheatfield

1883 - 1983

Best Wishes On Your 100th Year

CHEVROLET

Charles Wiers

WIERS CHEVROLET SALES, INC

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AMS

ASSOCIATED MECHANICAL SERVICES, INC.

PLUMBING – HEATING – AIR CONDITIONING – SHEET METAL – PROCESS PIPING

TOWN OF WHEATFIELD:

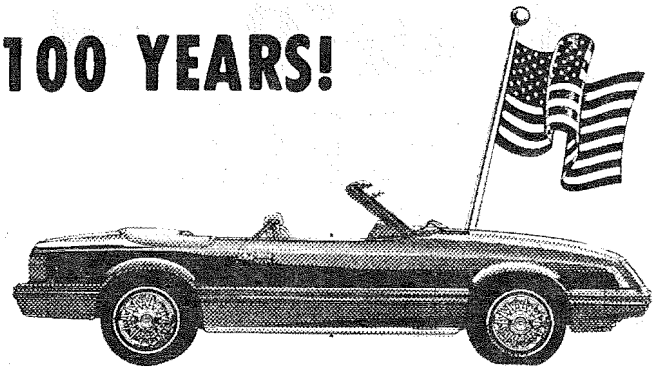
CONGRATULATIONS ON YOUR 100th BIRTHDAY:

ASSOCIATED MECHANICAL SERVICES, INC. HAS DONE A GREAT DEAL OF WORK ON NIPSCO' S SCHAHFER STATION. WE FEEL QUITE SURE THAT WHEATFIELD WILL PLAY AN IMPORTANT PART IN THE FUTURE PROGRESS OF THE MIDWEST AREA. WE ARE ALSO LOOKING FORWARD TO ASSISTING IN THAT PROGRESS IN ANY WAY WE CAN. IT HAS BEEN OUR PLEASURE TO HELP IN BUILDING YOUR FUTURE.

SINCERELY YOURS,
D.E. Byers
(AMS) ASSOCIATED MECHANICAL SERVICES, INC.

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FIELDHOUSE FORD
in DeMotte
SALUTES
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100 YEARS!



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open all year by appointment

OPEN FOR ANNUAL
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December 1 thru 23

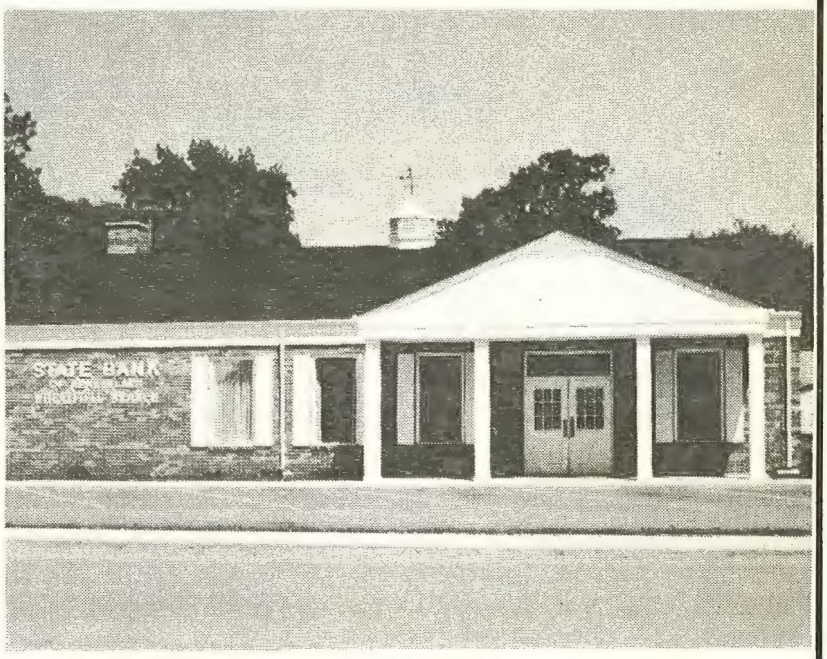
CONGRATULATIONS
AND BEST WISHES
FROM YOUR
JASPER COUNTY SHERIFF,
TERRY L. GILLILAND, AND HIS STAFF.



Southeast corner of Main and High Streets in Wheatfield, Indiana. Building 20'x40', home of Wheatfield Branch from 1965 to 1977

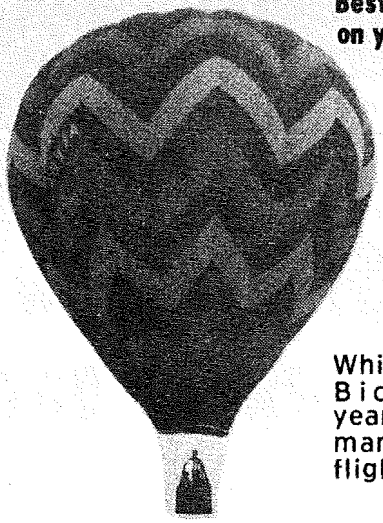
We are proud to be a part of the *Wheatfield Community...*

STATE BANK of RENSSELAER



Northeast corner of Main and South Streets in Wheatfield, Indiana. Completed December 1977, present home of Wheatfield Branch

Member FDIC



Best Wishes Wheatfield on your Centennial Year 1983

Which is also the Bicentennial year of the first manned balloon flight.

BALLOON RIDES

Max & Sharon White
Tefft, Ind 46380
219-828-5898

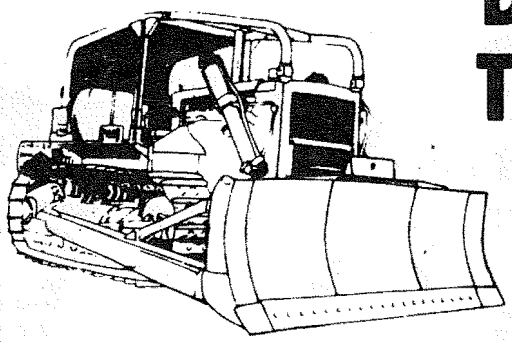
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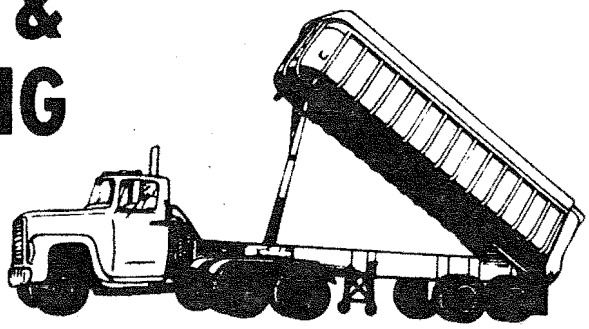
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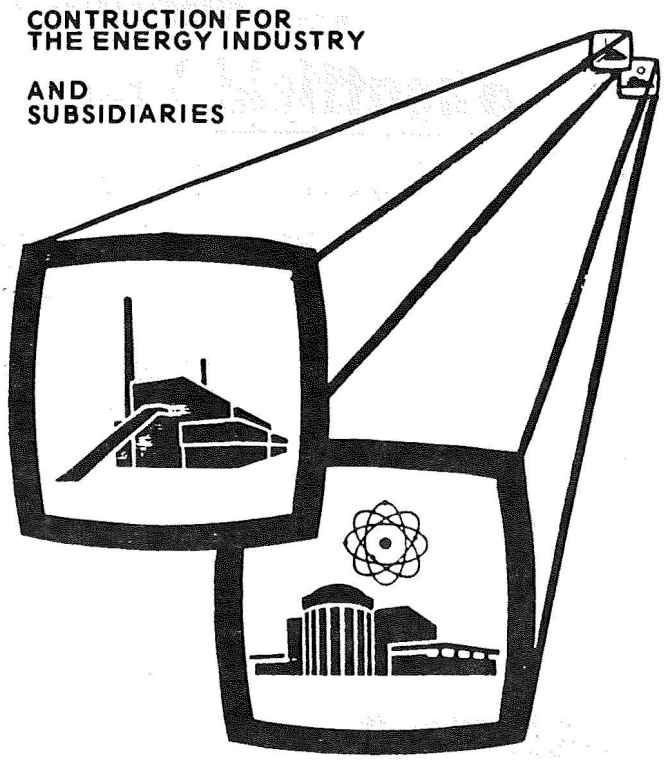
BANKING HOURS- LOBBY OPEN	DRIVE-UP	DEMOTTE PLAZA BRANCH
MON. TUES. & WED. 9:00-4:30 FRI. 9:00-3:00 & 6:00-8:00 SAT. 9:00-12:00 CLOSED ALL DAY THURSDAY	MON. THRU THUR. 8:00-4:30 FRI. 8:00-8:00 SAT. 8:00-12:00	MON. THRU FRI. 8:00-8:00 SAT. 8:00-5:00

CALL 987-4141
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210 S. HALLECK DEMOTTE, IND.

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CONTRUCTION FOR THE ENERGY INDUSTRY

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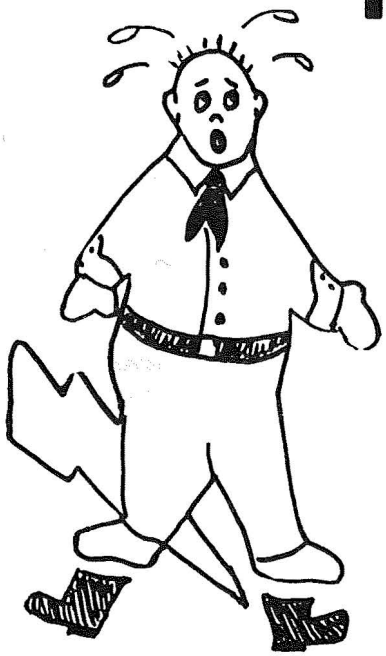
2245 S. State Street P.O. Box 1368 Ann Arbor, Michigan 48106
P.O. Box 315 Wheatfield, Indiana 46392

HAPPY 100th BIRTHDAY WHEATFIELD

from the

KV KILOWATT KICKERS

WHEATFIELD'S FIRST MODERN WESTERN SQUARE DANCE CLUB



ORGANIZED MAY 1980



Compliments of the Wheatfield Volunteer Fire Department on your Centennial



Firemen pictured are: Back row Bill Davis, Jim Davis. Middle row Nick Tillema, Ed Bierma, Dave Bierma-Treasurer, Jack Smith and Bob Tillema. Front row Tom Bose-Assistant Chief, Warren Roberts, Bill Mehay, Chief, Louie Ketchum and Jim Scott. Not pictured are: Jim Martin, Darwin Whited-Secretary, Dan Allen, Charles Scott, Jr., Charles Scott, Sr., Kevin Roberts and Bruce Bierma.

CONTINENTAL
Electric Co., Inc.

Electrical Contractors

P.O. Box 2710 · 9501 East Fifth Avenue · Gary, Indiana 46403 · Phone 219 / 938-3460

CONTINENTAL ELECTRIC CO., in proud to have participated in the Commercial & Industrical Growth of the Wheatfield area since 1972.

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R.M. Schahfer Generating Station Unit No. 15	**1975-1980**
R.M. Schahfer Generating Station Unit No. 16A & 16 B	**1979-1980**
R.M. Schahfer Generating Station Unit FGD Plant Unit No. 17	**1981-1983**
Kankakee Valley Middle School Wheatfield	**1977-1979**

CONGRATULATIONS WHEATFIELD ON YOUR 100th BIRTHDAY!!!

1883•Centennial Boosters•1983

Congratulations on your 100 years
Modern Chevrolet North Judson

Leon Kellner - Barber Shop - Wheatfield

Cargill Wheatfield Elevator

Congratulations Wheatfield - Beauty Cottage
Jan Barger - Lyn Thomas

Best wishes from
Indiana Federal Savings and Loan, Rensselaer

•-•-•-•-•-•-•-•-•-•-•-•-•-•-•

International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers

Local Union 531

WHEATFIELD CENTENNIAL

"HAPPY BIRTHDAY" and CONGRATULATIONS on your 100 good years of growing.

Local Union 531, I.B.E.W. was chartered in 1938. Our membership has grown to 424 qualified electricians covering a jurisdiction of five counties.

We are proud to include Wheatfield in our jurisdiction where we recently completed electrical work on the Kankakee Valley School and where we are presently engaged in the electrical work at the Schahfer Generating Station on the NIPSCO project of Units No. 17 and 18 after having already completed Units No. 14, 15, 16-A and 16-B.
Our best to you, Wheatfield

Centennial Notes

Composition by Connie Jones

